BE.

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THE BLUESTONE 2016

BE

you.
bold.
polite.
brave.
friendly.
inspired.
confident.
respectful.
adventurous.

It's our time at this place that has given these words meaning. It's the people we meet, books we read, pictures we take and lessons we learn to try to become better people.

From unpacking our bags on the first day to walking across the stage on our last, we were fortunate enough to have 1,355 days, 32,520 hours and 1,951,200 minutes with the friends who became our family.

This university became the best part of who we are.

The best we can do for our home is to be these words.

The best thing we can do is to be JMU.

We can't get these years back, but we can take them with us wherever we go.

Be seen. Be heard. Be remembered.

BE JMU.

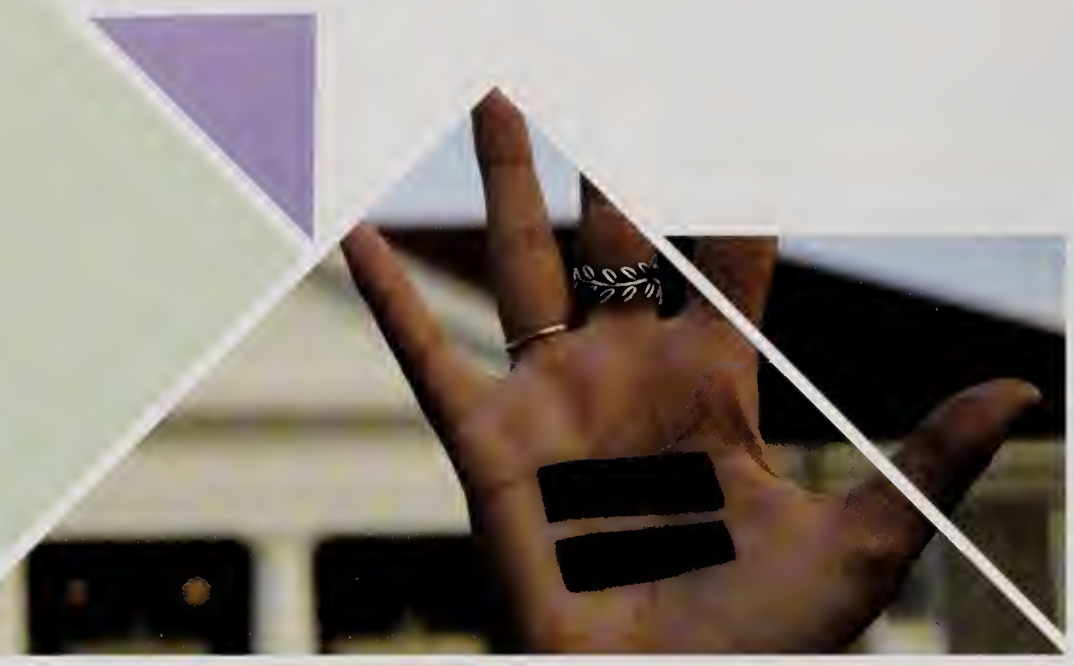


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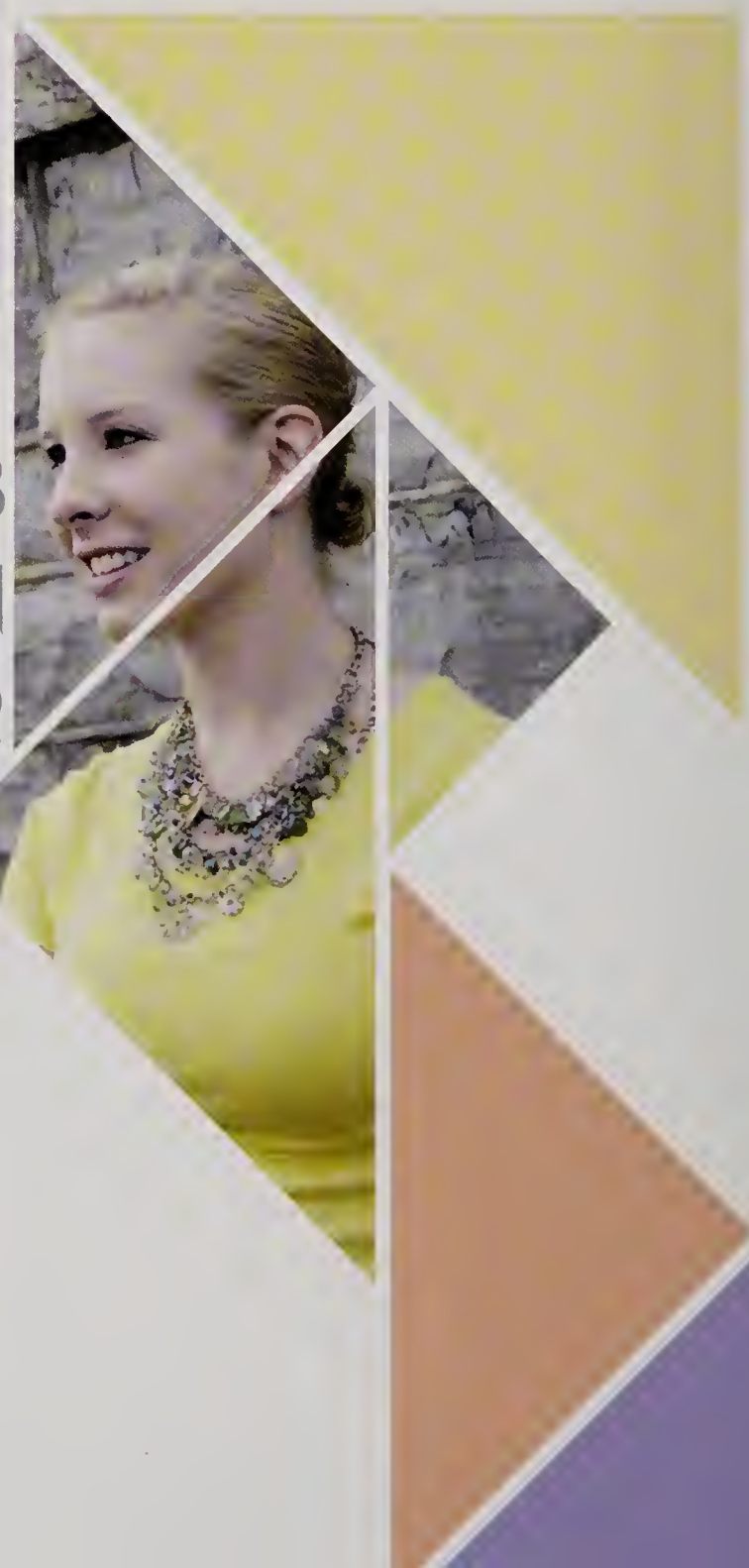
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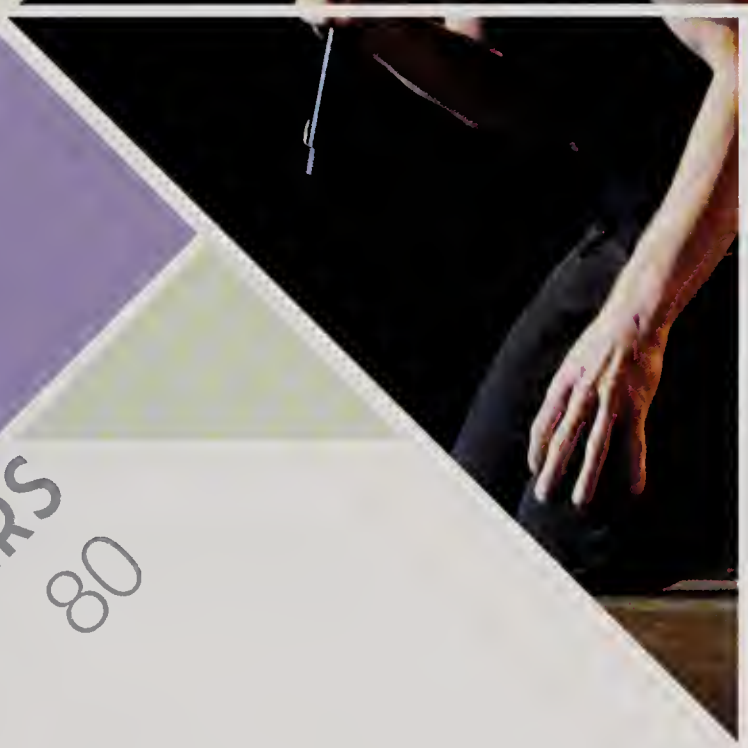


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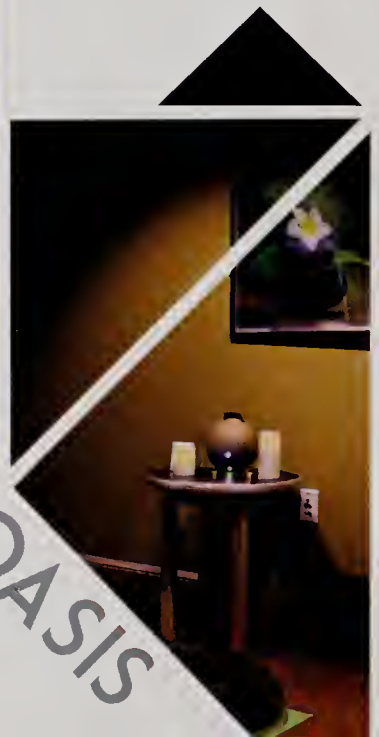
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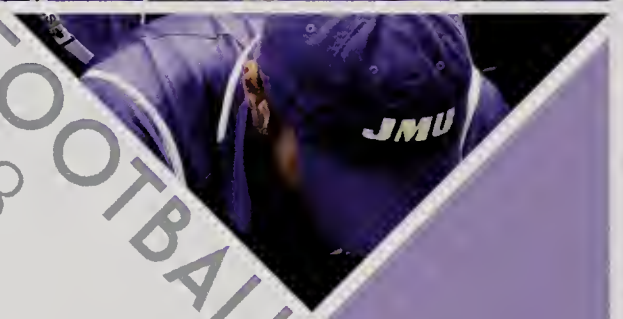
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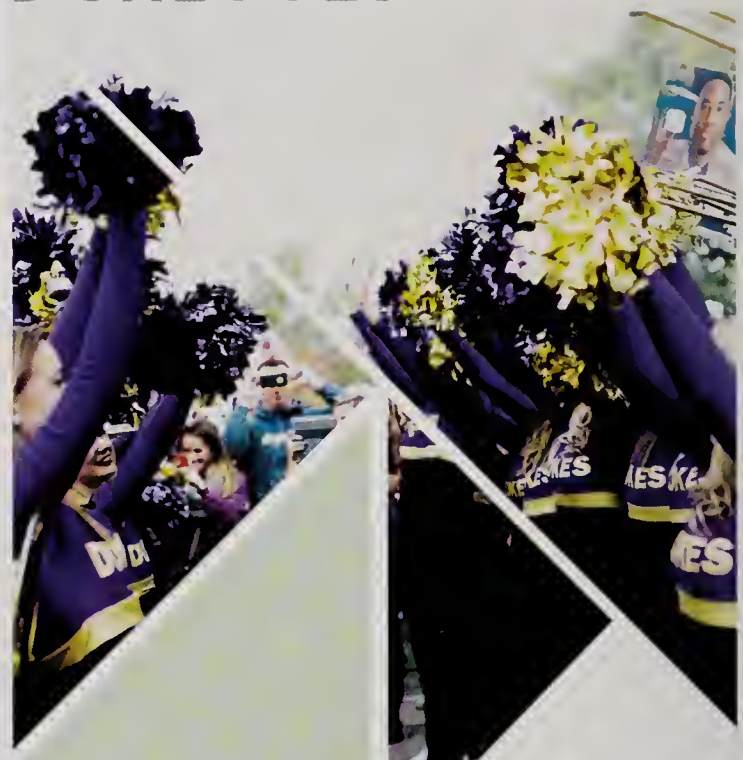






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FEATURES

GETTIN' HIPPIE WITH IT

Students enjoy the start of spring at "Festival at Festival"

After a dreary week of rain, JMU's fifth annual Madipalooza brought bright, sunny skies and a free-spirited Coachella vibe, complete with abundant flower crowns and Bohemian attire. On April 11, 2015, the traditional "Festival at Festival" took over East Campus. The day featured performances from bands such as MisterWives, Tyler Bryant and the Shakedown, Can't Stop Won't Stop, and Strong Water. Strong Water was a student group who had won the chance to perform at Madipalooza after their victory at JMU's battle of the bands earlier in the year.

Amanda Lee Duffy, whose stage name was Mandy Lee, was the lead singer for the band MisterWives. Duffy was taken aback by the crowd's enthusiasm and energy.

"We had no idea what to expect, and [JMU] just blew our expectations out of the water," Duffy said onstage. "You guys are the most fun. You're giving Lollapalooza a run for its money."

The outdoor music festival was free for students and featured plenty of activities, such as a dunk tank, inflatable obstacle course, zero-shock jump tower and laser tag. There were also food-eating contests spread throughout the day during which volunteers scarfed down doughnuts, pies, chicken wings and even a messy mystery food: spaghetti.

For sophomore nursing major Constance Morrison, one of the best parts of the event was spending it with people about whom she cared.

"[It] seemed like something fun I could do with my friends," Morrison said. "They did have a photo booth, which was really fun. We went in there like five times and took like 12 different pictures."

As many students knew, no JMU event was complete without giveaways. Sponsored tents set up across the lawn supplied games, raffles and prizes, including the chance to win the coveted Madipalooza 2015 T-shirt by playing a "Spin the Wheel" game. This activity had students lined up from Bioscience to Festival to give it their best shot.

After a long and snowy winter, Madipalooza helped to usher in the warmth of spring by providing fun and free entertainment alongside the scenic Shenandoah mountain skyline.

I Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS I University Unions Technology and Design
DESIGN I Leah Jacobs

“You guys are the most fun. You’re giving Lollapalooza a run for its money.”



MisterWives frontwoman, Mandy Lee, entertains students and faculty members on a sunny spring day. Members of the JMU community danced with their friends to her upbeat tunes.

FIGHTING TO THE FINISH

JMU community walks to end cancer

On April 17, 2015, the JMU community gathered on Hillside Field to honor those whom cancer had affected and help to eliminate the disease. The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event lasted from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., with friends and families celebrating together while walking and camping out around a track to fight for the lives of those with cancer.

Nicole Knudsen, a hospitality management major who graduated in the spring of 2015, was the event director for JMU's Relay for Life and a key member of the organization's executive board. She revealed how the Relay experience moved many participants.

"It's JMU's largest fundraiser, and it's overnight. This is where you get to see teams and interact with them because they have the on-site fundraisers," Knudsen said. "It brings us [as a community] closer together because, with it being substance and drug free, it's something where everybody can come, have a great time and get to know one another."

The first of many ceremonies took place as the sun began to set on Hillside Field. The Survivor Walk celebrated the survivors who had overcome cancer. Afterward, the Opening Lap commenced, and teams started the rotation during which the members walked the track. Throughout the night, student a cappella groups and entertainers performed to energize the team members as they embarked on the walk.

"I relay for the exec board, participants and all of their stories," Knudsen said. "If you talk to them, they have the most amazing tributes about the people they've lost and survivor stories."

By nightfall, the Relay for Life executive board silenced the Hillside Field and conducted the Luminaria Ceremony to pay respect to loved ones who had passed away from or currently had the disease. As the luminaries brightened the field, team members whom cancer had affected walked in peace with unwavering support from the community.

"I think [the ceremony] is the one part of the night that brings everyone together," Dylan Dowdy, a writing, rhetoric and technical communication major who graduated in the spring of 2015, said. "It [kind of] shows everyone why you're here and [whom] you're relaying for, and we can have a fun time all night, but that's why we're here – and it's important to show that."

By the morning, as the sun rose over Hillside Field, hope illuminated participants' hearts as they confidently moved toward a world without cancer.

WORDS | Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | Jillian Wright
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer, Giuliana Macaluso and Paige Lobuts



Above: Sophomore Brenda Tapp and graduate Dylan Caster man the ticket roll, interacting with the Relay particpants. The event relied on volunteers to make sure the night ran smoothly.

Below: Junior Brooke Campbell stands beside sophomore Celina Relton as the two prepare for the Luminaria Ceremony. Many participants chose to take part in this ceremony, as cancer had affected their family members or friends.





Above: Junior Jake Singer shows off his dance moves in sync with the rest of the Relay crowd. Various a capella groups performed throughout the night to keep participants engaged and awake.

Below: A luminaria burns bright, lit by a Relay participant who remembers a loved one whom cancer affected. The Luminaria Ceremony took place at night, where the only visible light came from the candles burning bright in remembrance.



IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE

JMU students give back to the Harrisonburg community

For one Saturday in spring 2015, JMU students and alumni from various organizations grabbed brooms and trash bags to serve the Harrisonburg community. These students took time out of their days to participate in service projects that benefitted not only JMU, but the surrounding area as well.

The Student Government Association coordinated the day of volunteering, which was properly named the "Big Event." Alumni Andrew Eblin, Corinne Kendrick and Truman Horwitz brought the Big Event to JMU in 2011. JMU, alongside Texas A&M and Virginia Tech, was one of many colleges nationwide that annually participated in this this event.

To engage in the Big Event, students registered online and joined a team of fellow volunteers. Each group then partook in a service project, ranging from cleaning windows and painting houses to even picking up trash around the community. Different campus organizations formed groups to help out during the day.

"A lot of Greek organizations do help out," senior political science and culture anthropology double major Madison Cairns said. "I know APO [and] Gamma Sigma Sigma usually make teams. A lot of our volunteers are just from social Greek organizations, too."

Cairns was the chair of the SGA's Community Engagement Committee, which aimed to bridge the gap between JMU students and the Harrisonburg community.

"This is our home for four years. I think [the Big Event] does provide a great opportunity for all of us to give back at least a little bit," Cairns said. "It's just a day, but it is a very unifying event for the whole community."

Joshua Humphries, a senior political science major, volunteered during the Big Event for three years.

"I continue to participate in the Big Event because it represents what JMU is really about – giving back," Humphries said in an email interview. "JMU and the Harrisonburg community have given each of us a great deal, which we can never repay."

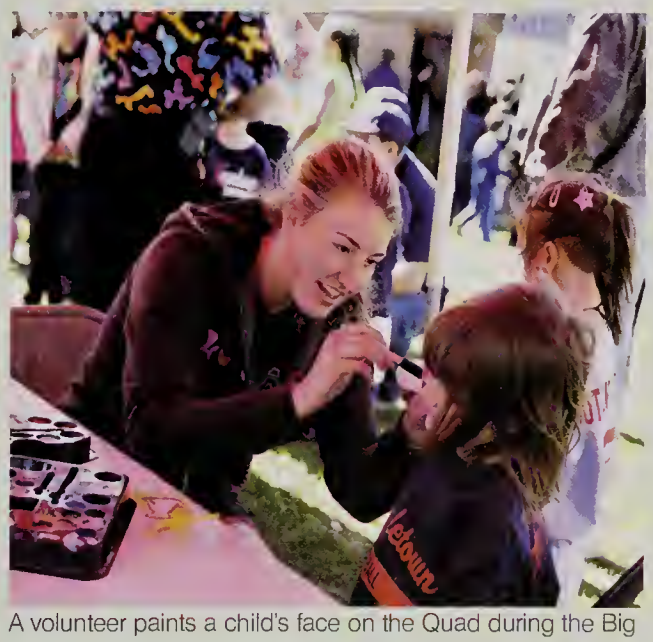
Many students joined Humphries in creating a positive environment by "being the change" in the Harrisonburg community, taking the spirit of the Big Event and applying it to their lives.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Breanna Young

Participants geared up and grabbed trash bags before cleaning up parts of Harrisonburg. Service projects focused on taking care of the city and other areas off campus.



Student volunteers pose with the Duke Dog after completing their service projects. Duke Dog showed his support for the Big Event throughout the day.



A volunteer paints a child's face on the Quad during the Big Event. Children seemed to enjoy getting their faces painted with different characters or designs.



Participants display their JMU pride while on their trip. Dukes from many majors combined their skills to help others.


A group of students poses in front of a scenic mountain view. ABP brought students together to work toward a common cause.


A student volunteer gets her hair braided while on a service trip. Volunteers were able to step into the communities they served and form bonds with the people they met.

THE NERVE TO SERVE

JMU students forego traditional breaks to lend a hand

Kicking off their sandals and strapping on their work boots, JMU students traveled near and far to serve communities in need. The Alternative Break Program allowed for domestic and international service-based experiences. Student leaders and a learning partner led groups of 10-12 students as they traveled and volunteered their time. Students combated societal woes during the week that they spent volunteering alongside nonprofit organizations.

Trips emphasized several values, the main three of which were orientation, education and training. Each weeklong program focused on different societal injustices. The students involved in the program described the ABP as a service-learning organization as opposed to a community service organization. Not only did students offer their time to these communities, but the communities offered their cultures in return.

"We are not going to go in and change these people's lives; these people are going to change our lives," senior communications major Samantha Shepherd, who led a refugee resettlement trip to Phoenix, said. "But if we can make the smallest difference, that's what's going to be substantial to them."

Shepherd, along with senior nursing major Gloria Juarez and senior hospitality management major Schaefer Beardsley, were some of the students who participated in the ABP as student leaders in spring 2015. Although learning partners accompanied them, these student leaders took on the majority of the trips' responsibilities.

"Leaders have the responsibility to educate participants, … to explain how the certain demographics in the community are impacted," ABP's assistant director, Misty Newman, said.

Beardsley had already been on past trips with the program, but his trip to Redwood National Park in California was his first time as a student leader.

"You have to take on that leadership role [of] keeping in contact with the agency and being aware of every detail you can think of for a successful trip," Beardsley said.

Juarez, however, began her experience with the service organization as a student leader. On her trip to San Juan, Texas, which focused on community wellness and immigration issues, Juarez saw the value in the conscientious living component for which ABP advocated.

"Having a budget that is equal to the poverty level that people are living at opens up your mind to how these people are living," Juarez said.

Along with maintaining ties with previous organizations, ABP was open to involving student leaders in planning. This leadership opportunity provided students with service and cultural learning and encouraged leaders to guide retreats and work with nonprofits.

At the end of her trip, Shepherd reflected on her time helping others.

"I was like, 'Did we do enough?'… I'm still struggling with that most days," Shepherd said. "But we are advocates of change. Change takes time; [it's] not a weeklong process."

WORDS | Christiana Freitag
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Alternative Break Program
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens

Jimmy Tatro recites a comedy routine in Wilson. JMU students and fans met Tatro's performance with roaring laughter.



Maddy Night Live brings hilarity to Wilson before Jimmy Tatro comes onstage. Their humorous performance prepared the audience for Tatro.



MEMOIRS OF A COLLEGE DROPOUT

Jimmy Tatro lightens the mood with a stand-up routine



UPB members laugh alongside Jimmy Tatro, their choice for spring comedian. Many students enjoyed Tatro's humor and energy onstage.

In the spring of 2015, roaring laughter filled Wilson Hall as comedian and actor Jimmy Tatro performed his stand-up routine in front of hundreds of faculty and students. Well-known for his sketch comedy channel on YouTube, "LifeAccordingtoJimmy," and for his role in the popular movie "22 Jump Street," 23-year-old Tatro revealed during his show that he used his college experiences for his comedic material.

"I went to college with the intention of dropping out, just so I could have a comedy show called 'Memoirs of a College Dropout,'" Tatro said while onstage.

Tatro's routine included humorous anecdotes from his time spent at the University of Arizona, from being a spectator of a fight between two guys in Halloween costumes to ending up in jail while dressed as a Christmas elf. Tatro's blunt and bold comedic style appealed to many students in the audience.

"I had seen some of his videos on YouTube through friends, and he's hysterical," Benjamin Denton, who graduated in 2015, said. "I mean, if I woke up in a jail cell with him in an elf costume, so be it; no big deal. He's very chill."

At the end of his show, Tatro held a meet-and-greet where he gave hugs and took selfies with fans in a variety of crazy poses. Emily Vaughters, who graduted in 2015, won her meet-and-greet pass from a University Program Board event the evening before.

"He seemed like a really nice guy when we talked to him really quickly, and he was hilarious," Vaughters said. "He kept referring back to his jokes, so it felt like a continuous [performance]."

As a bonus, JMU's improvization group, Maddy Night Live, warmed up the crowd before Tatro went onstage, getting the audience to participate in a college-oriented "Blue's Clues" parody that featured an original song, "Jail Time."

These comedic acts helped create a light-hearted, humorous atmosphere in the jam-packed Wilson Hall, allowing students and faculty to enjoy an evening filled with comedy and laughter.

WORDS | Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS | University Unions Technology and Design
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens

GO BIG — OR — GO HOME

Hip-hop artist performs to a lively crowd

Big Sean prepares for his performance as JMU students welcome him to the stage with applause. Students looked forward to the spring Convo most all year.

On April 2, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., students congregated in the Convocation Center to see American recording hip-hop artist Big Sean own JMU's stage. By 7 p.m., students dressed in festival-style attire filled the seats and pit and seemed eager to dance the night away to top-charted hits such as "Clique."

Big Sean entered the music scene in 2012 after releasing his breakthrough album, "Finally Famous," and his popularity quickly began to flourish on college campuses. For JMU, Big Sean was the second spring concert sellout since Macklemore and Ryan Lewis in 2013. The show sold out seven hours after ticket sales began on March 4, 2015.

"The ability to have a big name come to a small town like Harrisonburg is amazing," freshman accounting major Matthew Shifflett said.

At 8 p.m., the lights dimmed in Convo, and the crowd chanted Big Sean's name, awaiting his presence. Big Sean's DJ began to hype up the crowd, and the floor started to shake as audience members got on their feet and started to dance. A minute passed, and cellphones lit up the darkness, ready to capture Big Sean's arrival onstage.

"I am excited to see him, in general. I don't think I would get this opportunity anywhere else," freshman computer information systems major Kateland Rojanvongse said. "I'm glad JMU is giving us this opportunity to see him."

The speakers began to pulsate the beat of Big Sean's first song as fog crawled from the stage into the stands. The renowned performer appeared from behind the stage in sleek, all-white attire. Big Sean began his performance with the song "Marvin & Chardonnay" from his first album. After his opening song, he continued to energize the crowd with his other songs, such as "Mercy" and "All Your Fault," both featuring voice-overs from Kanye West.

Halfway through his set, Big Sean took off his jacket, and the tempo softened as he spoke to the crowd about his rise to success in the music industry.

"Put it out in the universe, manifest it and create it," Detroit native Big Sean said. "My mom told me that you could do anything you want ... so I did."

As he opened up to the audience, the energy level never dropped. The crowd applauded Big Sean's success as an artist.

"I was pleasantly surprised that he opened up to the crowd like that; he was very genuine and honest," sophomore marketing major Amanda Libero said.

Rapper Big Sean gave the concert-goers a night to remember as the spring semester started to come to a close. He finished off the night with the nationally known song "I Don't F- - - With You." He ended the performance by leaping into the audience for a crowd surf. The audience never missed a beat, getting to the rapper as he spoke his closing words.

"Tonight, I'm reppin' JMU," Big Sean said.

WORDS | Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | University Unions Technology and Design
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs

Bright lights illuminate Big Sean's white attire. The University Program Board brought the performer to JMU as the spring Convo artist.



MAINSTAGE MELODIES

Spring musical puts a song in our hearts

Above: Demonstrating months of tireless work, "Sweet Charity" brings the audience on a New York adventure. The cast of triple threats electrified JMU's stage.



The cast of "Sweet Charity" strikes a pose on the mainstage. The production team worked for two months to bring the show to life.



Senior Mary Kathryn Johnson embodies Fosse-style choreography during a scene in "Sweet Charity." Johnson, who played Nickie in the musical, appreciated the production's dance-heavy element.

The cast of the 2015 spring musical, "Sweet Charity," transported the audience to a dance hall in late-1960s New York City, bringing a taste of the Big Apple to JMU's campus. With the mainstage resplendent and actors the same, the crowd followed glass-half-full Charity and her companions through heartache and hope.

But this mainstage masterpiece did not develop overnight. The cast of "Sweet Charity" remembered the dedication it took to make the show a reality in the two short months leading up to the opening curtain. Senior musical theatre major Shaun Nerney played the male lead, Oscar Lindquist, and described the production team's concentrated pursuit of excellence in preparing for "Sweet Charity."

"I saw how hard my peers were working and how hard they were pushing their limits, and it made me want to do the exact same thing," Nerney said.

As one of the female leads, Courtney Jamison, a musical theatre major who graduated in May 2015, also contributed to and understood this collective effort.

"It was truly about commitment to living and breathing in … 1960s New York," Jamison said in an email interview.

The cast had to work especially hard to immerse themselves into the Fosse-style dance that characterized the show. Mary Kathryn Johnson, also a senior musical theatre major, explained how "Sweet Charity" was set apart from the numerous other JMU productions in which she had performed because of its Fosse-style choreography.

"[Fosse style is] incredibly detailed, and that's why I love it," Johnson said. "I'm a very detailed worker."

The cast pulled out all the stops for the production, which called them to simultaneously sing, dance and act. Johnson, who grew up dancing, explained that leads in musicals typically did not focus on dance to such an extent. However, this musical, which relied so heavily on its choreography, was different.

"As a singer and an actor … it's just so fun to truly be able to do all three," Johnson said. "That is a role to me that is kind of the epitome of a triple threat kind of role, and that's what I want to do."

The show offered students the chance to be a part of something larger than themselves.

> "There was a real sense of team and a real sense of family."

"I think it was definitely a great opportunity for students to learn and work as an ensemble," Jamison said.

This synergy also continued off the stage.

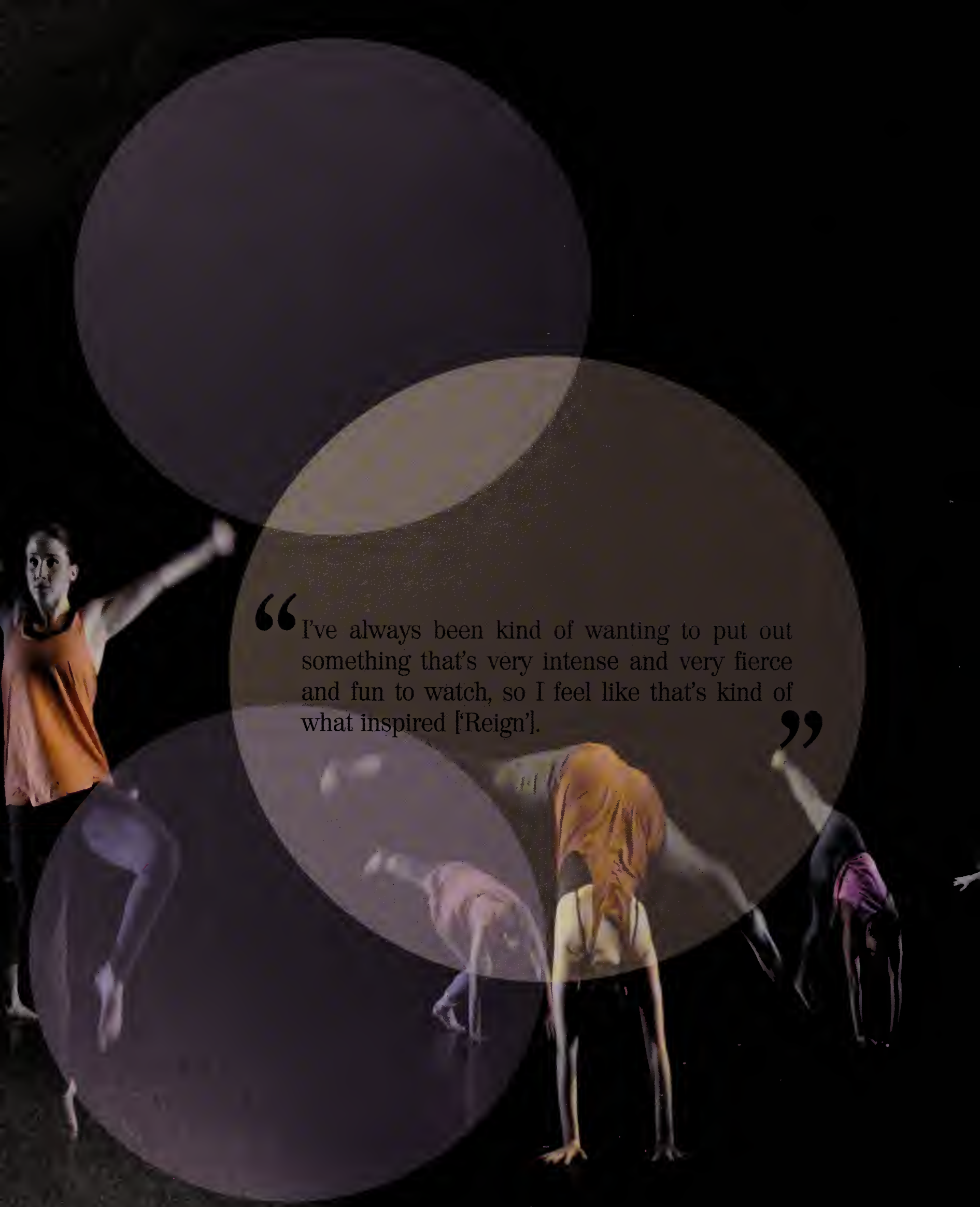
"There was a real sense of team and a real sense of family," Nerney said of the group's dynamic.

Beyond its entertainment value, the lead cast members felt that "Sweet Charity" had a larger message for the audience.

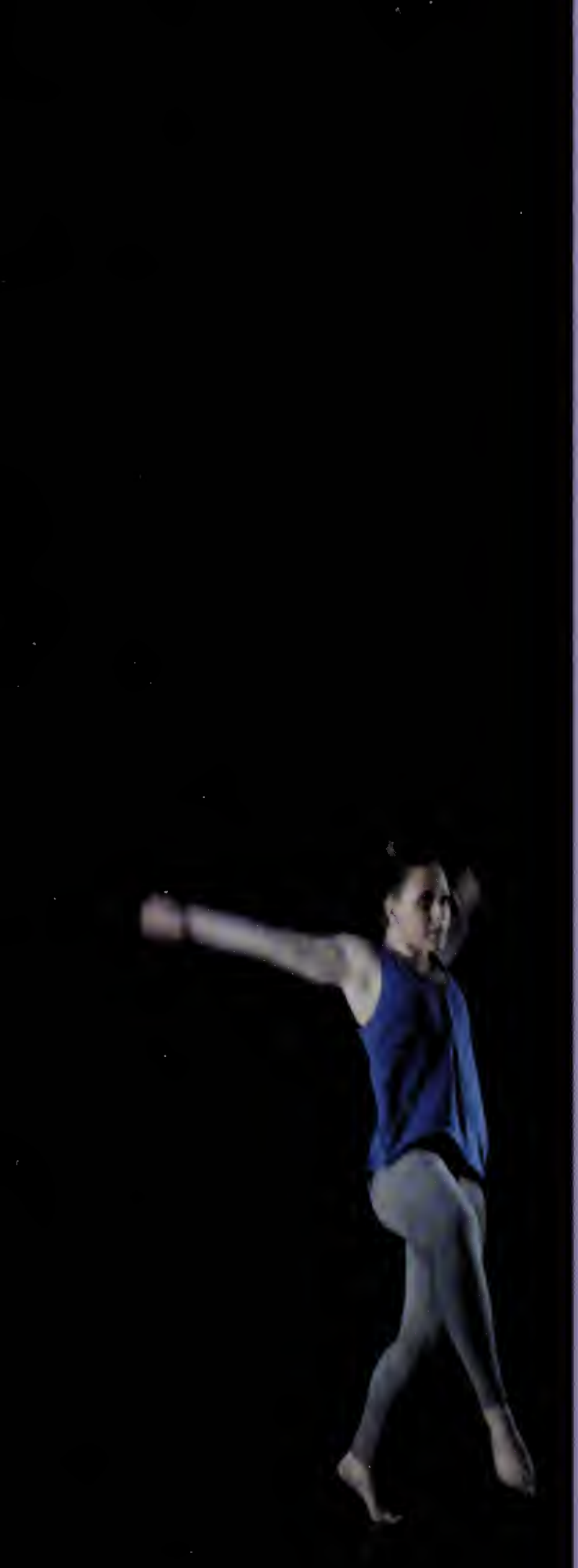
"To me, it just means to be okay with where I am, but also to be dreaming of the next thing because there always is something more – there's always tomorrow," Johnson said.

Charity reminded us that as we navigated through the world in its mess and majesty, sometimes it wasn't without, but within, that we had to look in order to move boldly onward. In putting on "Sweet Charity," perhaps it was not just Charity who came to life, but the audience, too.

WORDS | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | Forbes Center Photography
DESIGN | Jane Ryu



“I've always been kind of wanting to put out something that's very intense and very fierce and fun to watch, so I feel like that's kind of what inspired [‘Reign’].”



Student dancers' colorful outfits brighten the dark Earlynn J. Miller stage. The Spring Student Dance Concert highlighted the work of dance majors of varying experience levels.

FINDING INDEPEN-DANCE

Dance majors display their talent in student-run concert

In the spring of 2015, JMU's dance majors showed off their skill and dedication in the department's annual Spring Student Dance Concert. This entirely student-run event, held in the Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theater, featured the work of student choreographers and dancers who auditioned their pieces for the show at the beginning of the semester. The concert even included a performance by the freshman Associate Dance Ensemble, which outside dance choreographer Stuart Pimsler directed, and which featured actors from JMU's theatre department to supplement the dancers.

Junior dance major Colby Bedell choreographed for one of her composition classes a piece titled "Reign," which featured several of her fellow dance majors. Bedell, along with the other student choreographers, used what she learned in her classes to work closely with her peers and create a piece that was all her own.

"I've always been kind of wanting to put out something that's very intense and very fierce and fun to watch, so I feel like that's kind of what inspired ['Reign']," Bedell said. "It was a lot of hard work, but I feel like it all paid off."

Rebekah Bono, a junior dance major, performed in Bedell's piece along with choreographing one of her own for the concert.

"['Reign'] was a fun dance," Bono said. "I had never worked with [Bedell], but I had worked with other students before, and it's interesting to see how people pick up elements from [composition classes] or elements from faculty – [seeing] how they choreograph and how [they] use the process differently."

For Bono, putting all the elements together to choreograph a professional, student-run dance piece was a challenging yet rewarding endeavor.

"The music came in pretty soon in the process," Bono said. "I had good ideas on compositional things, like what was going to happen when and where, but once the music came in, it was more clear. So I had my dancers, and I was like, this is what I had to work with, and I built from there."

Student choreographers and dancers alike used this concert to display all the capabilities they had acquired in their classes, demonstrating that they had what it took to enter strongly into the world of professional dance.

WORDS | Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Devon Lutz
DESIGN | Breanna Young

Right: Members of the Swing Dance Club practice a dip during practice. The club met twice a week in the Godwin Multipurpose Studio.





Left: While rehearsing a move, two dancers partner up. Most swing dance moves featured both lead and follow positions.

FULL SWING AHEAD

Swing dance club travels to Washington

Throughout time, popular dances went in and out of style. The Harlem shake, the hand jive and the Running Man quickly rose in popularity before losing steam. But one dance seemed to keep up with the times: swing dance. This style began in the 1920s and had been practiced ever since. JMU's Swing Dance Club, founded in 1995, taught different swing dance moves to students twice a week. For one weekend in April 2015, the club danced their way to the nation's capital for the Washington D.C. Lindy Exchange.

DCLX was an annual regional event during which students met other people who practiced the dance. The event also featured workshops and lessons, focusing mainly on the Lindy Hop, a 1930s dance move named after Charles Lindbergh that combined a partner dance and a single dance.

"This will be the third year we will be going," senior psychology major and vice president of the club, Olivia Jewell, said. "We will try to fund enough for people to go [and] get enough people as possible. … So if you start this semester, we try to dance, practice [and] learn until you are comfortable enough to go to this big event."

Jewell, who joined the club in 2012, had participated in DCLX since the club started attending in 2013.

"[DCLX] is definitely one of those things where you do it and realize, oh, this is why I started dancing, like this is why I enjoy this so much," Jewell said. "You [kind of] build these relationships with other people."

Brigitte Criqui, a sophomore studio art major and the chairman for the club's decorating committee, felt the same excitement as her friend during her first experience at DCLX as a freshman.

"DCLX was so much fun," Criqui said. "There were lots of people from many different states [and] countries [representing] many different ages. There were several different dances [during the] afternoon, evening and late night."

Through club meetings, several dances a semester and yearly events like DCLX, JMU Swing Dance formed a tightknit community of students who shared a passion for this classic, upbeat dance style.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS | Danielle Lerer
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao

ALUMNI TELL ALL

Recent graduates give advice to first-year students

WORDS | Jillian Wright
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens

Soon-to-be graduates stand for the national anthem with hands over their hearts. Students greatly anticipated graduation day, the culmination of their time at JMU.

As the number of incoming freshmen continued to annually rise, a myriad of apprehensive first-years sought quick tips from experienced former students with essential stories to share.

"I was nervous about 'the unknown' when I first came to JMU," freshman media arts and design and history double major Stephen Aderton said. "Luckily, I have a few upperclassman friends who have shared their experiences with me."

In order to aid fellow Dukes, alumni offered a variety of invaluable words of advice about topics ranging from proper study habits and JMU jargon to stress reduction and social connections.

"[My friends and I] always go to East Campus Library because there's a ton of space to study over there," communication studies major Courtney Herb, who graduated in the spring of 2015, said. "And upperclassmen will judge you if you call ECL 'Rose Library.'"

In regard to spending hours studying in the library, many alumni confessed to learning the hard way how to study effectively for tough exams and bulk assignments.

"Don't procrastinate on a lot of assignments, especially for research papers," physics major Kevin Hunter, who graduated in the spring of 2015, said. "Make the extra time to study ahead of time instead of waiting three days before an exam to cram."

In the classroom, alumni concurred that becoming familiar with educators on a personal level is a beneficial step toward academic success.

"Talk to your professors and see them during office hours; they're there to help you," Hunter said. "If you have questions, don't be afraid to raise your hand or ask them after class."

After much-needed de-stressing during a hectic week, alumni also advised that students take advantage of various resources around campus that promoted physical and mental health and relaxation, such as UREC and The Oasis at the Student Success Center.

"When you feel super stressed out, which happens a lot, just take a break," criminal justice major Ronald Cople, who graduated in the spring of 2015, said. "I usually take a nap or go to the weight room, and I feel better [afterward]."

Although academics were a top priority throughout college, former students also recommended setting time aside to routinely keep in contact with friends and family.

"Sometimes it's easy to forget about having a social life when you're slammed with work," writing, rhetoric and technical communication major Victoria Price, who graduated in the spring of 2015, said. "School's definitely important, but don't forget to call your parents every now and then."

In addition to maintaining current friendships, one of the best methods for establishing new friendships during freshman year involved stepping out of one's sense of comfort, a decision that alumni felt was often well worth the risk.

"Join some clubs you wouldn't normally choose or don't know that much about," Price said. "Forcing myself out of my comfort zone helped me make a lot of friends."

Whether freshmen were nervous about excelling in school, budgeting time or expanding their social lives, many considered these fundamental tips from fellow Dukes and took the initiative to make the most of the priceless years ahead.

FOREVER

Commencement was a time of introspection and mixed emotion for the 2015 graduating class at James Madison University. After several years spent calling JMU their home away from home, graduates across all departments had a chance to say goodbye to the campus they knew and loved. As the graduates filled their seats, the air seemed to buzz with anticipation for what was to come next, not just in the day, but in their future endeavors. As the ceremonies began, friends and families gathered in support of their loved ones, witnessing as Dukes became alumni who would bleed purple and gold for life.

WORDS | Michelle Criqui and Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs



DUKES



...015 wait eagerly to receive their di... mas in front of the picturesque
...ft... ...ars of hard work, these Dukes were r...dy to move confidently into the
...f l...

EAT, DRINK AND BE MARRIED

Supreme Court says "I do" to same-sex marriage

In the summer of 2015, many Americans held their breath, waiting in anticipation for the news. The Supreme Court had deliberated the issue for less than a year, and on June 26, 2015, the time came. With a historic 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality. Due to clauses in the 14th Amendment, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had the fundamental right to marry. Because of this, same-sex marriage became legal in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

"The minute we heard about the news, all of us interns ran 20 blocks to the Supreme Court steps to celebrate," senior communication studies major Shannon Garner, the LGBT & Ally Education Program student events coordinator, said in an email interview. "People were laughing, singing, cheering and genuinely supporting those around them. The coolest part was that I was able to see Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and she winked at all of us."

Not everyone supported this decision, however, and it was widely debated and discussed.

"It did not directly affect me, as I am an ally to the cause, but this was a monumental decision in the lives of my friends and loved ones," Garner said.

As the ruling made headlines across the nation and the world, students expressed their varying opinions on the subject, adding their voices to a rapidly growing global conversation.

"I think that it should've been legal the whole time," freshman undeclared major Helena Mulder said. "So I strongly support that decision, and I think it was a good decision."

Freshman kinesiology major Lindsey Johnson seemed to agree with Mulder, adding that she believed everyone deserved to have equal rights.

"I think that [members of the LGBT community's] happiness is just as important as anyone else's happiness, so if they want to get married, they should be allowed to," Johnson said.

Sophomore accounting major Joshua Dantzler shared a similar opinion, stating that the decision did not affect him, but revolutionized the lives of his peers.

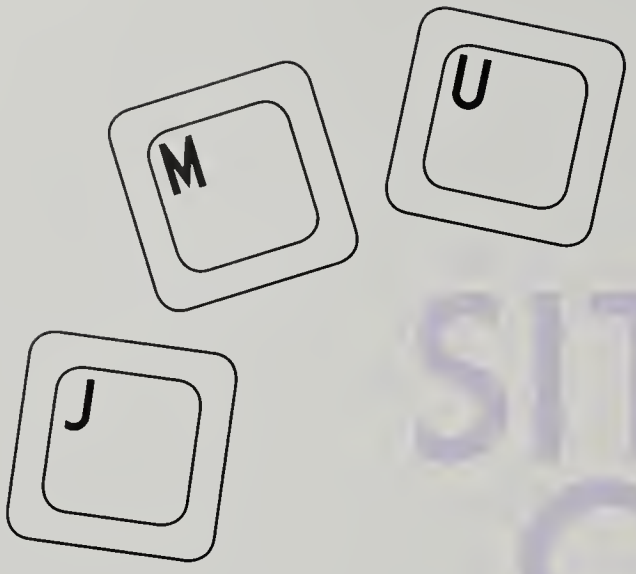
"I'm glad [the Supreme Court] went through with the decision, and we should all focus on equality for American citizens," Dantzler said.

The Supreme Court made a historic decision, allowing same-sex couples everywhere in the U.S. to marry. This ruling affected many citizens who held varying opinions on this significant moment in U.S. history, regardless of their sexual orientations.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTO AND [illegible] | Carley Toms



A student shows support for the Supreme Court ruling by painting the equality symbol on her hand. Marriage equality advocates across America celebrated when they heard the final decision.



SITES SET ON JMU

Student designs new JMU home page

During late childhood, some liked to tinker with toys, play board games or collect action figures. These activities often determined what one would enjoy as an adult. This was certainly true for senior psychology major Andrew Carnes. At age 12, Carnes wanted to design his own website.

Carnes was particularly interested in the human mind and how it worked. For this reason, Carnes played an active role in redesigning JMU's home page.

"I researched website design and incorporated this into how people think," Carnes said.

The marketing department contacted Jeffrey Andre, a JMU psychology professor and Carnes' adviser, with a specific problem.

"I had been conducting a number of different studies on human eye movements using our eye tracker," Andre said in an email interview. "Randy Budnikas, JMU online marketing manager, contacted me about wanting to conduct an eye movement study on how users look at the old and new versions of the JMU website. I asked [Carnes] to take the lead on the project, and the two of us, along with [Budnikas'] input and research interests, designed and conducted the study."

The department wanted to create a new home page design to ensure that aspiring college students who visited JMU's website clicked on links that would help them apply to the university and motivate them to visit the campus. The project involved buying a new WordPress theme and customizing it to match JMU's current online presence. As a content management system, WordPress enabled users to install themes and templates.

Carnes had to train the department to use the new page, so he was largely responsible for customizing and developing it. The experiment began with a bit of role-playing.

"Pretend you're an incoming freshman applying to JMU and viewing the website," Carnes said.

Following this direction, Carnes showed students the old and new home page designs.

Using cameras and infared light, the eye tracker recorded the location of students' pupils in relation to the objects on the screen. This told Carnes what viewers were looking at as they scrolled through the website.

In turn, he was able to supply the JMU marketing department with this information.

"Sophomores just entering the psychology major were pulled from Dr. Andre's psychological stat course to participate in the study," Carnes said. "Lower level courses were required to be in the participant pool. When professors need people, they pull from this pool."

For Carnes, the results were not so surprising, but there was extensive data to include in the study.

"We only had 20 participants, but I spent a couple weeks just gathering all the data," Carnes said.

Carnes' hard work and determination inspired him to further explore eye-tracking technology, and his academic research projects helped him develop a Web page of his own. Researching website design and its relation to psychology early on in life not only paved Carnes' career path, but also presented an opportunity for Carnes to help high school seniors decide whether they wanted to wear purple and gold for years to come.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Carley Toms
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer



Senior Andrew Carnes shows the software he used to
His data was used to better JMU's online presence

Junior Britney Davis decorates a bulletin board for her residents. As an RA in Hanson Hall, Davis hoped to make her residents feel at home.





Sophomore Kia Miles sits before a bulletin board that she decorated in Potomac Hall. Miles' role as an RA allowed her to welcome and guide first-years.

NEVER FEAR, FIRST-YEAR

Dorm programs create a positive environment for first-year students

Being the new kid on campus sometimes had its ups and downs. It often meant new experiences, new people and a new environment. JMU offered these students multiple ways to help connect them to on-campus life.

Resident Advisers and Community Activity Board members encouraged freshmen and other first-year students to become active at JMU through various events and activities. Each group received funding from the university to organize these social events.

Unlike CAB, RAs focused on planning activities for students who lived in their residence halls. These events ranged in scope, focusing on community, and multicultural and academic areas of interest. RAs also planned social functions and information sessions on a regular basis for the students, with topics ranging from Halloween celebrations to study tips for finals. These functions and sessions allowed the residents to get to know one another.

Saleem Aboite, a freshman accounting major and the president of CAB in Shenandoah Hall, described the types of programs held in her residence hall.

"In Shenandoah Hall, our Community Activity Board sponsors events geared toward personal community engagement," Aboite said in an email interview. "In the fall semester we had a Halloween costume contest, pumpkin painting, a pumpkin spice theme night [and] Thanksgiving dinner, and we brewed hot chocolate for residents the entire week before finals."

Britney Davis, a junior hospitality major and an RA in Hanson Hall, also described programs she organized for her freshman residents.

"[We had] a lot of community [events] where we played Cards Against Humanity," Davis said. " ... I did a finals week study guide for them, just so they know the importance of getting enough sleep, drinking water [and] working out."

Depending on the event, freshmen and other first-years had the opportunity to meet those who lived around them and learn more about being active on campus.

"Personally, I think that CAB encourages residents to seek interaction with each other as well as interaction with James Madison University," Aboite said.

Through these and other programs, the university offered freshmen and other new students connections that allowed them to better adjust to life at JMU.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS | Nicole Landry
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer

REACHING GOALS

Students expand their knowledge in Brazil

| Christiana Freitag
| Courtesy of Jordan Clevey
| Alexandra Rathjens and Paige Lobuts



Ships bedeck the sea bordering Rio de Janeiro. Students studied abroad in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paolo during the spring of 2015.



Spring 2015 ushered in a study abroad opportunity for students who were looking to understand the sports world. For a week in late May, JMU students and faculty partnered with West Virginia University to explore the culture and business of sports in Brazil. With destinations such as Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, nine JMU students learned about sports management in a country at the heart of international athletics.

"Right now, [Rio de Janeiro] is the hot spot for sport," associate professor of hospitality, sport and recreation management David Shonk said. Shonk, who accompanied the students on the trip to Brazil, explained that Rio de Janeiro was an essential location to study international sports management. Students had the opportunity to meet with the International Olympic Committee involved in planning the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics, giving them a firsthand look into the planning behind a major global event.

Sao Paulo was the trip's second location. The group had contacts in the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, Anschutz Entertainment Group, major sports clubs, and the University of Sao Paulo. This study abroad trip exposed the students to a culture that soccer and sports heavily influenced. Each organization the group encountered emphasized the fact that Brazilian society prioritized soccer over other athletics.

"[Sao Paulo] is a cultural and urban center, and [there are] a lot of sports organizations there that we could visit," Shonk said.

Students had a well-rounded experience during the trip. They engaged not only in the corporate side of sports by visiting corporations such as ESPN Brazil and AEG, but also the cultural side. Projeto Grael, one after-school program with which the group partnered while in Rio de Janeiro, taught children who lived in low-income Brazilian areas called "favelas" the skills needed to build and maintain sailboats. These skills would later help the children find jobs.

"[Projeto Grael] was a totally different vibe from the corporate world, but it was just as important to how you would categorize Rio [de Janeiro]," senior sport and recreation management major Natalie Fioretto said. "I thought it was amazing to see both sides of that."

Students also learned that many young Brazilians spent hours training at sports clubs.

"There are kids there from the second they get out of school until 9 p.m.," Fioretto said.

Shonk's students visited recreation clubs in both Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. In Rio de Janeiro, the group traveled to the Fluminense club, and in Sao Paulo, they toured the Corinthians Paulista club, where about 50 percent of Brazil's Olympic athletes trained. Soccer was the focus of and source of funding for the Fluminese club, whereas Corinthians Paulista was a recreation club directed toward all sports.

"Young athletes from very young ages come up through these [Fluminense] clubs, and the club is the professional team," Shonk said.

Fioretto noticed that soccer even played a role in Brazilian education.

"Soccer, basketball and volleyball are the only sports that students know growing up in Brazil," Fioretto said. "But with Rio [de Janeiro] getting the bid [for the Olympics], there's like an education component, and they have to teach a new sport in the education system, so this year rugby was being introduced."

This interested Fioretto because hosting the Olympics compelled Brazil to explore other more global sports.

"I love sports because [they bring] everyone together, and it doesn't matter what country you're in, even if the cultures and the customs are different," said Fioretto. "They might have different management styles in terms of what comes first in the level of importance, but it's all still pretty similar."

The study abroad trip provided JMU students with a cultural awakening as well as a major networking opportunity. Students like Fioretto left with business cards from organizations such as AEG as well as a sense of the way the industry worked. This left the participants prepared to come back to JMU and apply their new insights into the sports management world.

A Brazilian soccer stadium stands ready for use beneath the warm May sun. JMU students learned about soccer's importance in Brazilian society while studying abroad.

THE FACT IS...

Dukes give opinions about college life at JMU

Each year at JMU was a different experience. Certain traditions continued from class to class, but as JMU changed and expanded, each student seemed to find a niche and fall into a steady routine. They acquired lifelong friends, favorite foods and maybe even a caffeine addiction around finals week. 50 students across campus gave their opinions and preferences about life at JMU, with topics including soda brands, libraries, coffee, dining halls and home states. Whether they lived on East Campus, in the Village or in the Bluestone area, students had their favorites.

Each student on campus decided to come to JMU for a different reason and put their own spin on daily life as a Duke. JMU students were from different places, loved to study in their favorite library and dreaded climbing either of the mountainous sets of stairs across campus, but their school spirit united them as Dukes.

WORDS | Kanwal Syed and Leah Jacobs
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs

Would you rather climb ISAT steps or Godwin stairs?

46% Godwin

54% ISAT



Out of state or in state?



72% In

28% Out

Where do you spend your dining dollars?

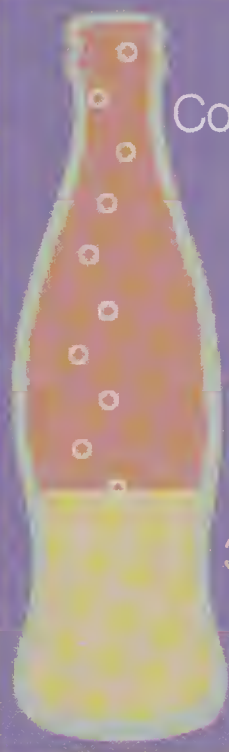
44% Starbucks

26% Chick-fil-A

30% Other



Coke or Pepsi?



68% Coke

32% Pepsi

Rose or Carrier?

22% Rose

78% Carrier





56% Starbucks

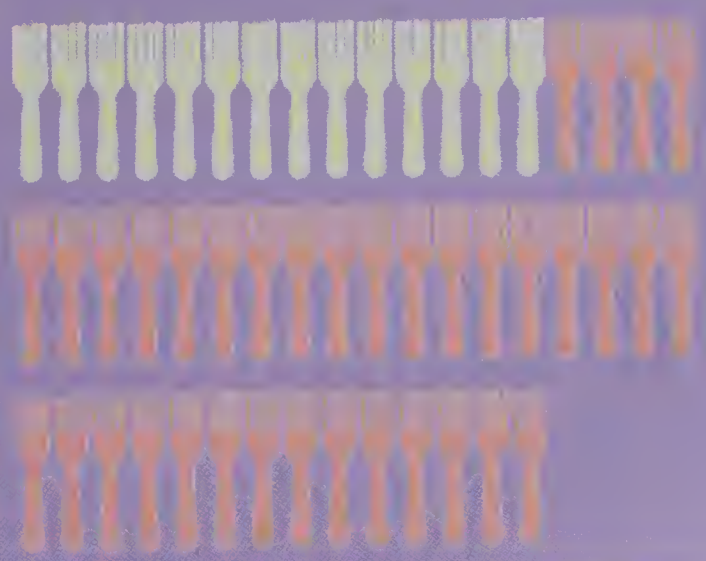
44% Dunkin' Donuts

Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts?

D-Hall or E-Hall?

28% D-Hall

72% E-Hall



1



"JMU first-years transitioned smoothly before cracking down on their studies"

New students hoist their fellow Dukes [illegible] the Block Party in the 'Burg. This event welc[illegible] Harrisonburg community.

August was an exciting time for JMU's campus. For incoming freshmen, it meant getting away from their families, possibly for the first time. For teary-eyed parents, dropping off their children called for stocking up on tissues for the car ride home. And for returning upperclassmen, it was an opportunity to guide and mentor new Dukes. Through 1787 August Orientation, first-year students met the other freshmen living alongside them. Each hall was divided into small groups, and two First YeaR Orientation Guides, commonly known as "FROGs," led each bunch.

Throughout orientation week, students got acclimated to campus by playing games and participating in educational activities. These helped new Dukes integrate onto the college campus. Dipping their toes into life at the university level – and possibly into Newman Lake – JMU first-years transitioned smoothly before cracking down on their studies.

[illegible] | Hannah Adams and Giuliana Macaluso
PH[illegible] | University Marketing Photography Department
D[illegible] | Breanna Young

THE MAGIC OF MADISON

Alger discusses the effects of the Madison Plan on JMU

[redacted] | Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | Jillian Wright and University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

Top left: Gold balloons float into the sky. Balloons were placed around campus during school events.
Center left: President Alger discusses the goal of innovation as said in the Madison Plan. He explained how innovation is one JMU's best qualities.
Bottom left: A recent graduate accepts his diploma as he walks across the stage. Friends and families cheered as students graduated in the spring.













Top right: A freshman student takes a picture with Duke Dog during move-in day. Parents and students filled campus during move-in.
Center right: First-year students clap during a ceremony. Students learned the fight song during the ceremony.
Bottom right: President Alger makes a speech on the Quad. Audience members remained focused on President Alger's sincere words.

Q: What is the reasoning behind JMU's new Madison Plan vision? Why do you want to create something new for the university to uphold?

A: Well, of course, the new vision talks about the national model of the engaged university – engaged with ideas and the world. It's really a reflection of where we've been as a university, where we are today and where we can go ... It really was a collective and inclusive process. I think it does really reflect the heart and soul of JMU, the kind of education that we provide and [the] aspirations we have for the future. That's really the idea behind [the plan] – to try to articulate what it is that makes JMU a special place [and] to capture what I like to call that "Magic of Madison."

Q: How does the Madison Plan reflect the university mission statement?

A: The mission statement stayed the same. That goes back 10 years or more and talks about educated and enlightened citizens. But I think if you look at the Madison Plan in particular, it focuses on engagement. There are three aspects of engagement: engaged learning, civic engagement and community engagement. I think these aspects reflect learning in and outside the classroom. It's not enough to learn great ideas inside the classroom; how do you apply that knowledge outside the classroom to make the world a better place?

Q: What are the overall goals of the Madison Plan, and how do you expect it to be implemented across campus?

A: All of the academic and administrative units across the whole university are a part of this process, and on an annual basis, they will be developing goals and objectives to carry out the plan. We develop as a many metrics as possible – so, ways of measuring that we're actually successful in meeting those objectives.

Q: According to the university's website, JMU's new vision was approved in January 2014 and will be implemented until 2020. What do you hope to have achieved by 2020?

A: Certainly, the university is always a work in progress. You're never just done. The hope is that we're building a certain kind of framework and atmosphere where this work is going to continue beyond 2020 … By 2020, my hope would be ... that we have a thorough and systematic understanding of these ideas across the university, and that we are seeing results. We are seeing these different aspects of engagement, implemented in meaningful and important ways.

Q: What is an engaged university, and how does JMU fall under that category?

A: The idea is [that] here, it really is about the heart of the university. How are we using skills, our knowledge, our education to make a difference in the world? It's sort of opposite of the isolated ivory tower model that people used to talk about in higher education. The idea here is that we are not separate from the world; we are very much a part of the world, and we want to be a part of the world, but we want to make a positive difference. We want to use the education and values that we are teaching and learning to make that positive difference.

Q: Since your presidency began in 2012, do you think JMU has grown as a university?

A: I do, in a lot of pretty significant ways, [including] the growth of the university itself, in numbers of students and facilities. We've tried to be responsive to the needs of the Commonwealth [of Virginia and the] country as we are strategic about our future growth. So developing that culture and philanthropy is a big goal of the university, as well, so we're seeing progress on that front.

"It's not enough to learn great ideas inside the classroom; how do you apply that knowledge outside the classroom to make the world a better place?"

Q: How do these goals tie into the motto, "Be the Change"?
A: Well, that's what we're all about. That's what the students want to do when they come here. So, it's about using your education. It's a choice that individuals make. But the point is that everyone can use their skills [and] education in whatever field they pursue to make a difference. What does it mean for you, and how can you use your passion and gifts to meet the needs of the world?

Q: Can you explain the reasoning behind the core value "innovation"? How is this implemented on campus?
A: Well, certainly. This [is] one that we're very excited about that we want to be universitywide. When you think about innovation, creativity, problem solving – these all go together. We want our students to have a set of skills that will allow them to take on new challenges and new opportunities because … we are trying to prepare them to be people who can be team players that can make a difference – those who can not only identify problems, but help solve problems. Part of innovation is getting people to think about what they can do, again, to add value, to do something different and not do something they way [it's] always been done. That's a skillset that we're really working hard to make sure that our students can acquire across the board.

Q: Do you think this plan will attract potential incoming students? If so, how?
A: I certainly expect so, as we can articulate what it is that students learn and how they benefit from these various forms of engagement. It is all about the students. It's creating a student-centered culture that is focused on relationships. We are an interesting hybrid of [small and large colleges], in a positive way … where students can get close faculty interaction [and] work collaboratively with fellow students, but also where they can do undergraduate research. That's a pretty rare combination, and I think that's a strong selling point. I think the more that we can articulate the benefits that students will get from this environment and the more success stories we can tell of our alumni and students, I think it will attract more and more students to JMU as our national reputation grows.



esident Alger discusses the Madison Plan and its implications with senior Paige Lobuts.
e Madison Plan sought to highlight JMU's distinguishing characteristics.



President Alger discusses the model of an enagaged university. The Madison Plan emphasized translating values from the university setting to the world.

LEAVING A LEGACY

JMU faculty remember 2012 graduate

WORDS | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Sean Cassidy, Ryan Freeland and Brad Jenkins
DESIGN | Carley Toms and Paige Lobuts

JMU alumna Alison Parker intently reads information on her mobile device. Parker's meaningful mark on the JMU community continued to thrive after her passing.

We cried together, grieved together and remembered together. The events of Aug. 26, 2015, changed James Madison University forever, when we lost our own Alison Parker, a media arts and design major who graduated in 2012. Although a shooting cut short Parker's time on earth, she did not leave JMU untouched by her passion for life.

Ryan Parkhurst, assistant professor of journalism in the School of Media Arts and Design, described his relationship with Parker as "mentor/mentee," as she was his advisee and student. Parkhurst remembered that as a student, Parker was unparalleled.

"I just remember that she was always – and students recognized this, too – she was always the bar that we set for students," Parkhurst said.

Michael Grundmann, associate professor of SMAD, recalled that Parker's success in the classroom stemmed from her enthusiasm for her area of study as well as her inexhaustible vitality.

"Any class she was in, students learned from her because she exemplified the energy and focus that you need to succeed," Grundmann said.

Outside of the classroom, Parker was involved with JMU's newspaper, "The Breeze." Rising to the position of co-news editor, Parker displayed excellence and zeal in the newsroom, qualities that continued in her career as a reporter after she graduated. Adjunct professor and general manager of "The Breeze," Brad Jenkins, remembered that Parker's reporting style was exceptional.

"Journalistically, she was fearless," Jenkins said. "No one would scare her."

Grundmann also worked closely with Parker while she served on "The Breeze" and observed her proactive attitude toward media.

"She was never the type of person to hang back and wait for a boss to tell her what to do," Grundmann said. "She figured out what to do and did it."

Grundmann also described Parker's mastery of her craft.

"I know she was as solid a journalist as you could ask," Grundmann said.

SMAD faculty fondly recognized that Parker's commitment to the department did not end with her graduation. Jenkins recounted Parker's untiring willingness to return to JMU after she graduated to share her experience in the field.

"She was kind of the model of an alum who's engaged with current students and doesn't just leave, but goes off and then gives back," Jenkins said.

But perhaps more than for her distinction as a student, journalist and alumna, Parker was remembered for her warm, vibrant nature.

Jenkins recalled Parker's incomparable ability to relate to others, both in the journalistic realm and in the relationships surrounding her.

"She just naturally could draw people to herself," Jenkins said.

Parker left no one unmoved by her kindness and vivacity.

"If by the time, Price, my daughter, is eighteen, nineteen years old, if she can be or have some of the qualities that Alison has, I'll feel like we'll have done our job as parents," Parkhurst said. "Because … that's the type of child that I want to raise."

Despite having lost Parker, her enduring influence on JMU's students, faculty and staff continued to breathe life into the campus.

"Alison was just like a light bulb always on," Parkhurst said. "She was energetic constantly. She was so alive."

arker works to master her journalism skills. Parker had a
ccessful career as a live reporter after graduating from JMU.

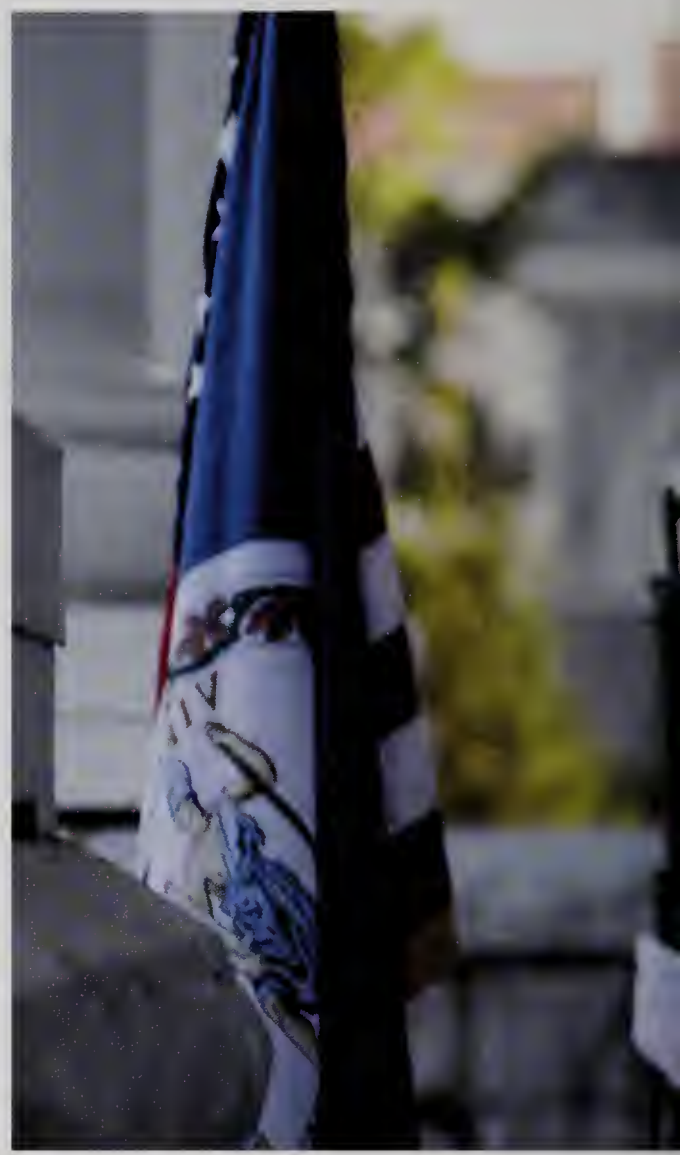
r conducts an interview for JMU's newspaper, "The
e." Not only did Parker report for the newspaper, but she
eld an editing position.

A SALUTE TO STUDENTS

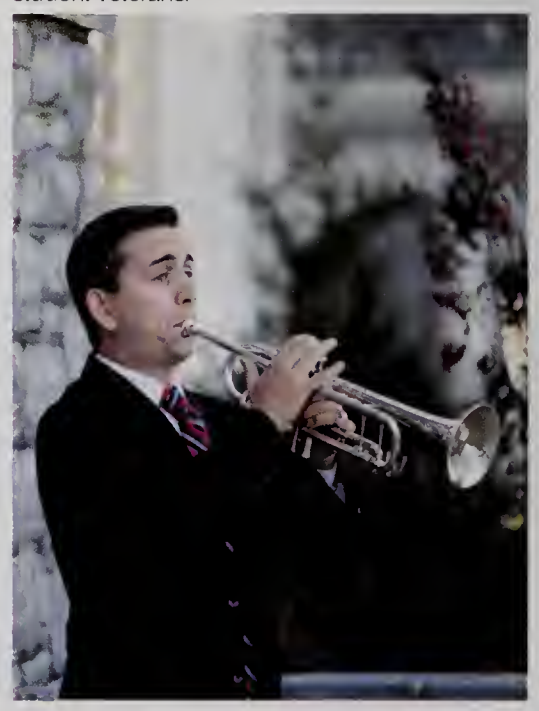
Student vetrans come together through campus organization



At the morning ceremony, SVA program manager Eric Gage addresses the crowd. The official opening of the organization's office coincided with the 14th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.



The sound of trumpets fills the crisp morning air. Onlookers took a moment to remember those lost on Sept. 11, 2001, and to honor JMU's student veterans.





Students from different branches of the military observe the opening of the SVA office. The SVA sought to bring together JMU's student veterans.



Student veterans stand at attention for the SVA office's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 11, 2015. This new space provided a safe haven for students in the armed forces.

With about 200 student veterans studying at JMU, the Student Veterans Association provided a community where student veterans could come together and share common experiences while furthering their educations.

Senior intelligence analysis major Karl Beckett was the SVA president and a Navy veteran. Beckett explained the organization's purpose on campus.

"[The SVA is] a place and an organization for veterans that are on campus to gather with each other as well as pull from each other as resources if need be, whether it's about academics [or] about just acclimating from being in the military service to … being in a university setting," Beckett said.

After being established at JMU in 2012, the SVA engaged in extensive advocacy efforts to secure a space on campus for members to call their own. Jennifer Taylor, an assistant professor of political science and the SVA faculty adviser, was a major figure in promoting the organization during that time.

"So overall, we really spent the last three years using an evidence-based advocacy approach with the results from the [annual] needs assessment [we had performed], and then placing JMU within the context of the larger national dialogue on student veterans on campus," Taylor said.

After three years, the SVA procured an office on the first floor of Wilson Hall that was specifically designated to the organization.

"We held the grand opening on [Sept. 11, 2015]. That was a really, really special day," junior psychology major Clinton Roberts said.

As well as being the SVA public affairs officer, Roberts was an Army veteran.

All JMU student veterans, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, had access to the association and the services it offered. According to Taylor, student veterans could participate in peer advising through the SVA, which also conducted a needs assessment for members each year.

"[The SVA advocates] for the needs of student veterans on campus with policymakers, be that at the institutional level, the state level or the national level," Taylor said.

Taylor explained that the SVA's leadership structure made the organization distinct.

"In the spirit of engaged learning and community and civic engagement, which [are] the pillars of our strategic plan here at the university, this space is a student-led space," Taylor said. "It only works if the student veterans use it [and] are engaging with one another."

Although the organization had leaders within it, it was the attitude of cooperation and mutual support among its members that united them.

"One of the things that … was kind of indoctrinated into all of us in the military is teamwork and cohesiveness," Roberts said. "And we want to foster an atmosphere of just those things – to work together for each other and for the rest of the campus."

Student veterans were an integral part of JMU's student body, bringing heroism and perspective to campus. The SVA and its efforts to honor student veterans added a burst of red, white and blue to purple and gold.



The ceremony begins with the singing of the national anthem. Attendees stood in reverence on a significant day in SVA history.

WORDS | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Students trek into the wilderness surrounding JMU

From the quick climb of Bearfence to the gradual slopes of Old Rag Mountain, many saw the area surrounding Harrisonburg as ideal for hiking. Those excursions had a much deeper impact than just aesthetics.

"I go hiking a lot when life gets chaotic," senior psychology major Danielle Jeffery said. "It's nice to know that not every place in this world is busy and just going and going. It gives you time to yourself. You have to pace yourself and be able to be in the moment – you have to be focused on what you are doing."

Students had the choice either to make the treks independently or join organizations on campus formed for this purpose. The Outdoor Adventure Club was one of the many clubs that committed to hiking or camping on weekends with groups of between 15 and 20 students. The OAC brought students together.

"You can have hikes that require the team-building aspect," Jeffery said. "If someone has a huge fear of heights and there is a huge summit, you have to support them. You are also in the middle of the woods with someone for three hours; what else are you going to do besides get to know them?"

Students did not have to be experts to take part in the hiking culture in Harrisonburg. There were a multitude of outdoor clubs like the OAC on JMU's campus that allowed students to join up with others who shared similar interests. UREC was also a useful equipment-rental resource for students who wanted to go camping but did not have the means to do so.

However, there were several materials necessary for a successful hike. Jeffrey had some important advice on the most integral aspects of hiking.

"Water. Never go on a hike without water, closed-toe shoes and a flashlight." Jeffrey said.

Hiking provided a way for students to take a break from their schoolwork and explore the abundance of natural beauty that surrounded them.

WORDS | Hannah Beverage
PHOTOS | Hannah Adams and Courtesy of Taylor Landry
DESIGN | Jane Ryu









Above Left: Foliage decorates the base of the Natural Chimneys in Augusta County, Virginia. The chimneys were a popular sight for students to behold the nature surrounding them.
Above Middle: Juniors Mary Copeland and Sydney Neff enjoy the sunset at Reddish Knob. Students regularly traveled to overlooks to spend time together outdoors.
Above Right: The OAC stops to take a picture after reaching the summit of Old Rag Mountain. Hiking Old Rag was a popular tradition for many students.
Below: The view from Reddish Knob is breathtaking despite the clouds on a September evening. Many students enjoyed taking sunrise and sunset pictures at Reddish Knob.

“You are also in the middle of the woods with someone for three hours; what else are you going to do besides get to know them?”



Belen Martinez holds a meal that he prepared in his truck. The food trucks in downtown Harrisonburg housed a variety of flavor combinations.

On campus, Festival's Cheese Please and the dining halls' "grilled cheese Thursdays" offered many sandwich options. From pepper jack to American, JMU students chose from various cheese flavors at the dining facilities. Grilled cheese sandwiches' popularity carried over to downtown Harrisonburg, as well.

At Rock'N Wolfe Food Truck Park, located on East Wolfe Street in downtown Harrisonburg, two food trucks offered delicious deals to hungry students and residents. Tiny tables shaded by umbrellas surrounded the trucks, and customers could sit and enjoy their sandwiches on a sunny day. Bright yellow flowers beautified the park, blending with the wonderful food aromas. Even Harrisonburg publications such as "Harrisonblog" promoted Rock'N Wolfe's recognition on campus.

At the biannual Rocktown Beer & Music Festival, students approached the owner of the food truck Grilled Cheese Mania, Kathleen Mania-Casey, detailing their favorite dishes.

"At Rocktown, students were constantly coming up to me saying how much they loved my grilled cheese," Mania-Casey said.

Mania-Casey had a truck on South High Street in addition to the truck located in the Rock'N Wolfe Food Truck Park.

"I'm from New Jersey, and I moved here to be with my daughter," Mania-Casey said. "I originally wanted to own a deli, but it didn't feel right. I prayed about it. Now we're rated No. 1 place to eat in the 'Burg."

Not only that, but Virginia Living Magazine ranked Grilled Cheese Mania as the No. 1 food truck in the Shenandoah Valley. The truck offered "simple comfort food," and the menu items catered to those in search of some family cooking in the 'Burg.

Menu specials such as "Family Time" and "Thirsty Thursday" implied that Mania-Casey's food truck took both the Harrisonburg community and JMU students into account. Naturally, the truck was present at many special Harrisonburg events, including The Weekend Heritage, Red Wing Music Festival and Rocktown Beer & Music Festival.

Right beside Mania-Casey at the food truck park was Belen Martinez, a Harrisonburg local who started Belen's Thrill of the Grill.

"I sell sandwiches and gyros, and I decided I wanted to do this after I graduated in culinary arts," Martinez said. "I grew up here [in Harrisonburg], and I needed more experience. My buddy owns the property, so he helped me build my truck."

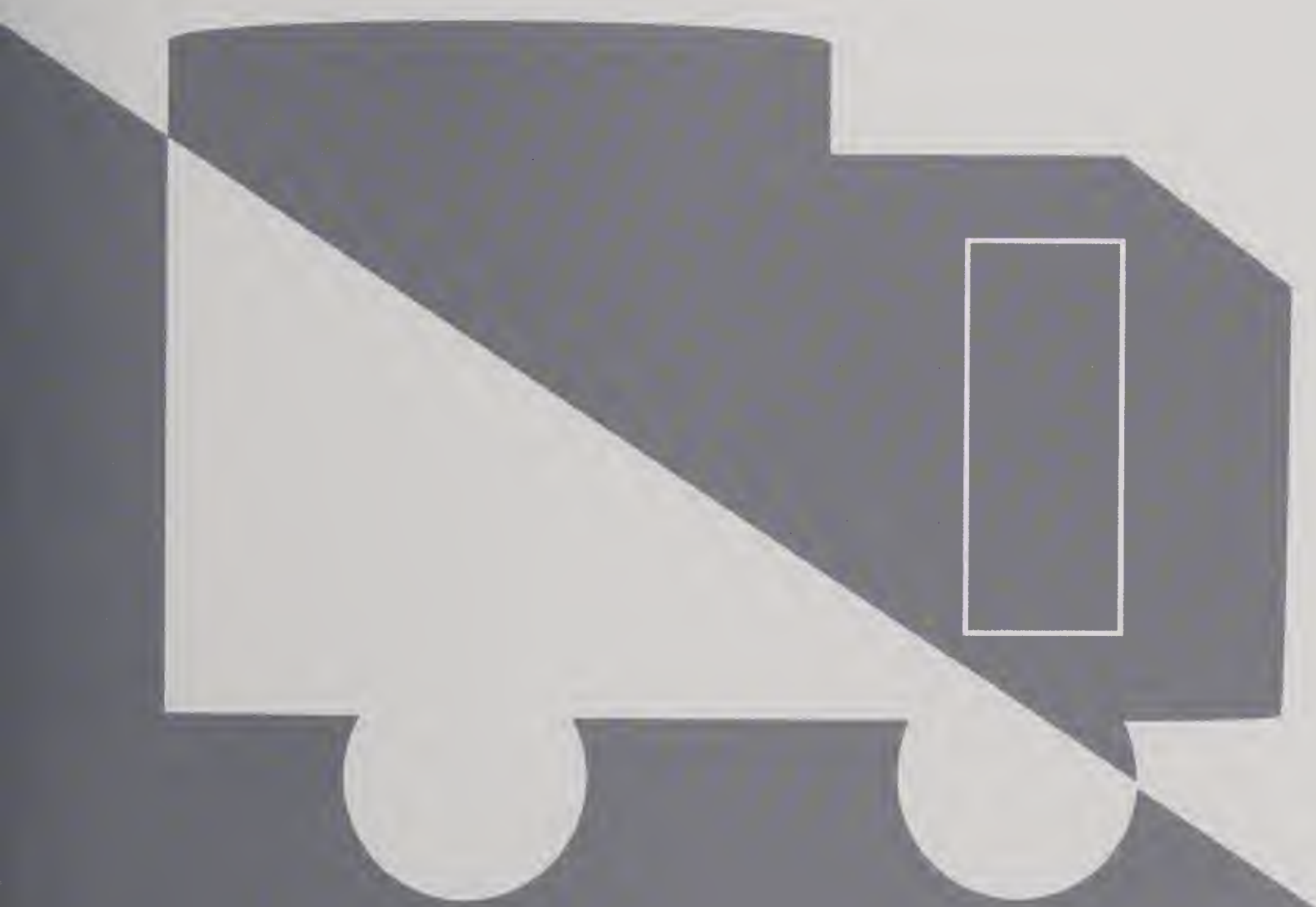
Martinez received his culinary degree from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia, and his cooking expertise resulting from schooling and many internships. His truck often traveled off-site, present at events like Relay for Life and beer and wine festivals.

Rock'N Wolfe emitted a colorful, memorable vibe – one that could quell growling tummies and quench the thirst of parched customers.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Veronica Garcia
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens

ROCKABYE, HUNGRY TUMMIES

Local food trucks set up park in downtown Harrisonburg



IN WITH THE NEW

Dutch band dominates Wilson Hall stage

Many saw JMU as the ideal place for aspiring musicians, specifically COIN and New Politics. Starlets such as Wiz Khalifa performed on our lush, green campus just before rising to the top. The University Program Board's director of public relations, Elizabeth Miller, a junior communication studies major, played a large role in determining who performed and when the show would occur. Miller detailed the process of selecting an artist, which included working with UPB's budget and conducting surveys to find what type of tunes JMU students valued most, before choosing New Politics.

Although the New Politics concert was not sold out, the group drew diverse concert-goers to Wilson Hall. The band released a new album the summer before titled "Vikings," and the group's performance at JMU served as a promotional piece for the album.

A mother and daughter pair named Mandy and Melissa Corey traveled across the country to watch New Politics perform. They saw four shows in six days, camping out in the cold before the New Politics drummer offered them hot tea upon exiting his tour bus.

"I'm most excited for the new material," Mandy Corey said. "They have a brand new album, and I [want to] hear the songs."

The two did not know much about the opener, COIN, but they were still excited to hear some fun jams.

COIN, the '90s-inspired opener for New Politics, brought good vibes to Wilson Hall. In an atmosphere of clapping and hair tossing, the band even incorporated JMU's name into their first song. The hit single "Run" especially got the place bumping. As the purple spotlights dimmed and COIN left the stage, the crowd relaxed, awaiting the band that the Coreys had once risked frostbite to see.

The crowd rose, and the three New Politics members took the stage in very plain dress. With the beat pulsating and the rowdy crowd's energy rising, lead singer David Boyd whipped, Nae Nae'd and break danced as red, swirly lights fled across the walls.

"This was one of the most beautiful states I've ever seen," Boyd said onstage.

Boyd interacted often with the crowd during the group's various musical mashups, including Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," Nicki Minaj's "Anaconda" and DJ Snake's "Turn Down for What."

"What do you get if you throw a piano down a mineshaft? A flat minor," Boyd said jokingly to the audience.

The crowd seemed to pick up on his level of comfort and energy onstage. On the night of New Politics' performance, JMU seemed to uphold its identity as an accepting, fun-loving community.

| Taylor Kahny
| University Unions Technology and Design
| Carley Toms

David Boyd entertains the crowd of students and
members. Hands waved back and forth to the

FAMILY WEEKEND

JMU families bleed purple and gold on campus



Freshman Elizabeth Hobbs stays dry at the football game with her parents and sister. Many visiting families supported the Dukes as they played Stony Brook University during Family Weekend.

True to form, Duke Dog goofs off with JMU fans during Family Weekend. Duke Dog brought school spirit everywhere he went, leaving traces of purple and gold in his wake.

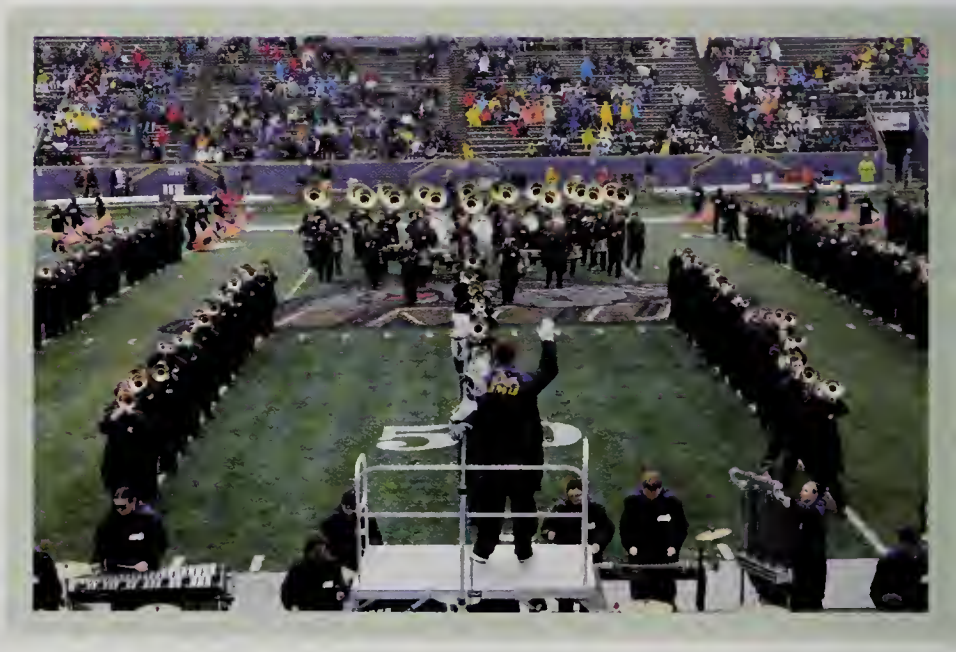


JMU celebrated students' families each year during Family Weekend, three autumn days during which loved ones came to campus and experienced the electric atmosphere that defined the university. The campus buzzed with activity as parents, siblings and friends got a feel for the JMU spirit, with their students serving as personal tour guides for the weekend.

Purple and gold bedecked the grounds as fans tailgated throughout Main and East campuses, eager to watch as the yet-undefeated football team took on the Stony Brook University Seawolves. Past, present and honorary Dukes packed Bridgeforth Stadium to witness a JMU victory, the fifth of the season, set to the tune of the Marching Royal Dukes. The crowd's roaring enveloped the area surrounding the stadium as the rain fell and spirits rose.

After the game, many parents joined their students for the JMU Family Weekend Fantastic Feast, featuring E-Hall's ceaseless savory selections. Students who wanted a taste of food off campus enjoyed dinners with their families in downtown Harrisonburg. Bellies and hearts full, students caught up with those close to them in heart, if not usually in proximity.

Loved ones joined their students for a weekend to remember, forming the larger JMU family. During Family Weekend, everyone was a Duke.



The MRDs entertain the crowd during the halftime show of the Family Weekend football game. The rain didn't stop the MRDs from making music for the visiting families and friends

WRITER | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | Danielle Lerer and University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl



Freshman Brie Lewis and her mother catch up over brunch at E-Hall. Students and their loved ones enjoyed eating on campus during Family Weekend.



Fans catch up at a tailgate, anticipating the forthcoming game. Families gathered under tents all over campus.



Freshman Madison Hodge snuggles with her parents in Bridgeforth Staduim. Despite the weather, dedicated students and families cheered on the Dukes.



Parents share laughs while tailgating. Families experienced the JMU spirit in the hours leading up to kickoff.



Junior Alexandra McCoy cheers on the Dukes alongside her parents during the football game. Students and families spent time on and off campus throughout the weekend.

RIDIN' SAFELY

Campus organization helps keep students safe



Since 2007, the student-led organization SafeRides had been active in preventing drunken driving in the Harrisonburg community through a volunteer-based driving service for JMU students. The club consisted of about 140 undergraduate students who drove from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the school year. Students needed only to show a valid JACard in order to have access to the service.

If students were interested in joining SafeRides, they had to submit an application, which was followed by a group interview before admittance into the organization. New members then had a mock work night, during which they drove rented vehicles around campus and got used to a system of switching between acting as the driver and as the navigator. At SafeRides' weekly meetings, the drivers and navigators met with their teams to review safety regulations before the beginning of the weekend.

Besides the community service aspect of this organization, many students joined SafeRides to make lasting friendships with others who cared about the safety of the JMU community.

"We really are just a tightknit family that just really loves to give back to the community and prevent [drunken] driving," junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Allison Palmer said. "There really is no better cause than preventing [drunken] driving – it's just so preventable, and seeing the number grow out of that many people that got home safely is so impactful to me."

Many miles spent behind the wheel led to a plethora of hungry volunteers, and luckily, Domino's Pizza sponsored SafeRides every operating night.

"It was the perfect way to start each evening – being able to enjoy dinner with my friends before we get to help people out is just such a cool thing," Palmer said.

In many instances, students had limited means of safely returning to their dorms or apartments. Therefore, many JMU students appreciated this free service, as they did not have to scramble for change to pay for a cab ride home.

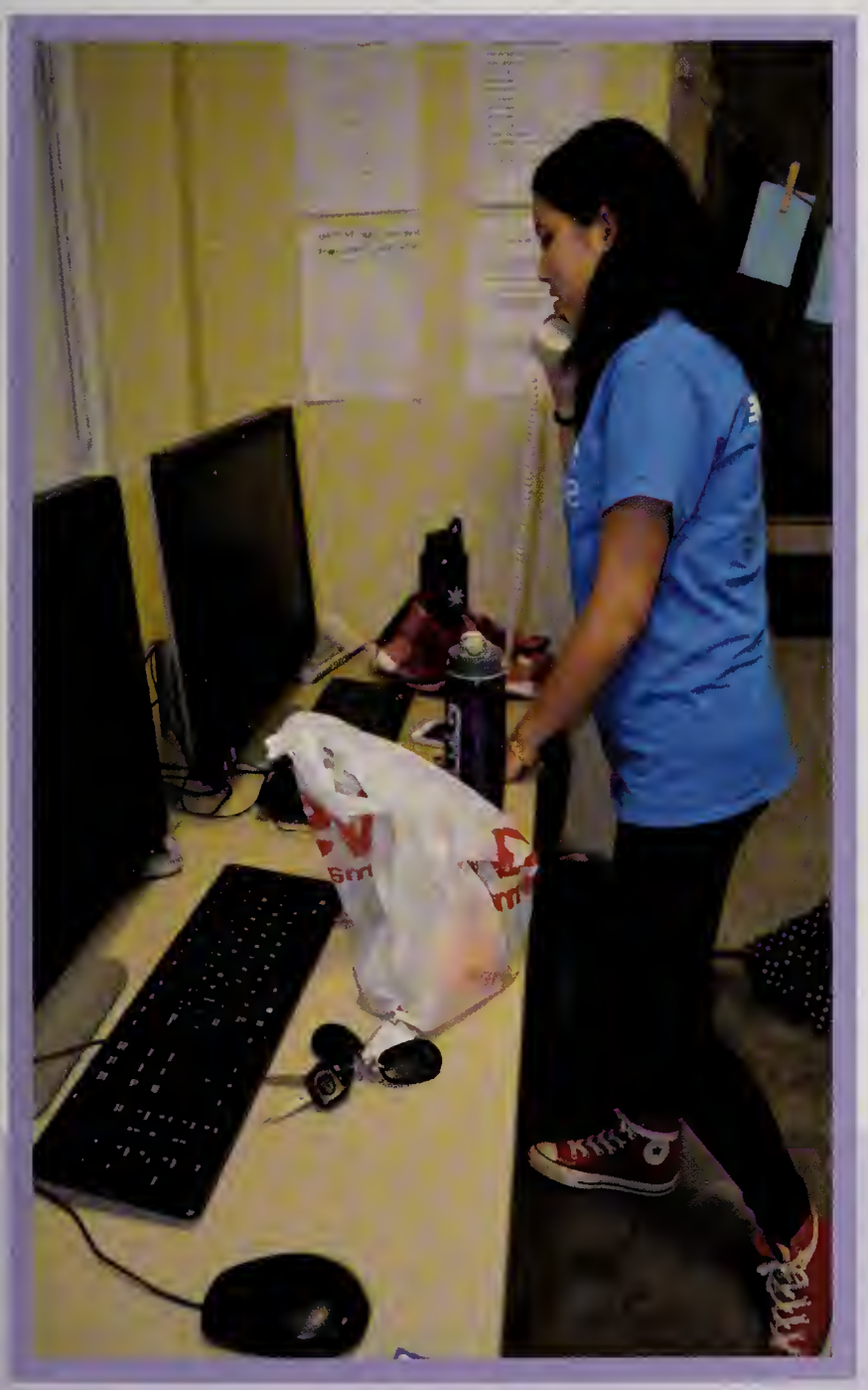
"It was honestly such a blessing to have [SafeRides] come get me, like especially when it's cold outside," sophomore communications major Brooke Withers said. "I didn't even want to think about having to beg my friends to get out of bed and pick me up. Also, I never really bring money with me when I go out, so the fact that I don't have to pay for it is a definite plus."

SafeRides operated on both donations from local businesses, private donors and the goodness of members' hearts to give those in the community a reliable opportunity to put an end to drunken driving.

WRITTEN | Hannah Beverage
PHOTOS | Nicole Landry
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl



“We really are just a tightknit family that just really loves to give back to the community and prevent [drunken] driving.”





Opposite page: SafeRides members pose for a photo in the office, stocked with midnight snacks. Domino's Pizza provided members with fuel to power through late-night shifts.

Above left: SafeRides advertises its presense to the public. The organization allowed students to participate in and take advantage of its services.

Above right: Newly inducted members gather during a group mixer. Selected applicants had to complete a series of steps before being admitted into the organization.

Left: A SafeRides member answers the telephone during a busy night shift. Members took turns staffing the office for a total of five hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

YOU ONLY GET WHAT YOU GIVE

Students band together to make a difference locally and abroad

Harrisonburg's parks, mountains, rivers and other picturesque landmarks offered opportunities to adventurous JMU students. Senior marketing major Alexander McElwee believed that inspiring the Harrisonburg community to explore these options would enhance his college experience. McElwee promoted the club referred to as GIVE Volunteers on campus. GIVE blended volunteer work with lots of adventure.

Branching out from a much larger organization abroad, McElwee was one of the two students who brought GIVE to JMU. The travel organization originated in Seattle and provided students with volunteer work all over the globe. The program gave students the opportunity to volunteer in countries such as Tanzania, Nicaragua and Thailand. McElwee, the club's vice president, along with senior international affairs major Thomas Gibbons, the club's president, returned as informed, enlightened students from a summer trip to Tanzania through the international GIVE organization.

"[Gibbons and I] came back from Tanzania, and we decided we wanted to do the same thing on JMU's campus," McElwee said. "We went through the application and leadership process, and in our junior year, we formed this cool group."

Gibbons was also an official GIVE guide in Tanzania. After completing two internships for the program, he chose to trek across the globe every summer, serving as an active guide and strong role model for Tanzanian communities.

The club began on JMU's campus with only 10 members and eventually held 80 members. Students attended interest meetings in Taylor Down Under and visited the official GIVE website to complete the application process. Afterwards, founding members like McElwee and Gibbons introduced new members to eco-friendly projects and excursions.

GIVE also offered academic credit, so joining and participating in the volunteer work helped boost students' GPAs.

"GIVE does volunteer work at Blue Ridge Food Bank and fundraisers like Cans for Cans, where we collect any form of cans and get money for it," McElwee said. "The price varies five to eight cents per can, and when we get to a dollar, each one feeds four people. We can buy a can and get the money to feed people who need the food."

The group also went hiking and camping, taking trips to Union Tower and Humpback Rock, and even went skydiving.

"We give back to the community while taking advantage of all adventure activities on campus. We work hard, but play hard," McElwee said.

Whether in Harrisonburg or a different continent entirely, GIVE Volunteers gave back to the community while having the time of their lives.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Alexander McElwee
DESIGN | Jackie Garcia





Top left: Members of GIVE Vounteers pose for a picture. The club held social events each semester where club members could gather and bond with one another.

Top right: Two members of the JMU chapter of GIVE ride an elephant. Students had once-in-a-lifetime opportunities as a part of their trravel and volunteer experience.

Bottom left: A member of GIVE goes skydiving with an instructor. Exciting outdoor activities were an important aspect of the club.

Bottom right: While volunteering abroad, a student member of GIVE dedicates his time by playing with children in a community. Communities abroad seemed to welcome student volunteers from JMU.





BRIGHTER FUTURES

Program assists Harrisonburg's migrant families

For those unaware of other cultures in the area, it could seem as though college students dominated the Harrisonburg population. However, this Virginian metropolis hosted growing migrant populations from Central America, the Middle East, northern Africa and other regions. In response to Harrisonburg's prominent migrant community, the Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program emerged.

"The goal of the program is to ensure that all [migrant] students graduate with a high school diploma or a GED [diploma] that prepares them for further learning, other educational opportunities or career placements," SVMEP coordinator Kathleen Stoehr said.

In 1960, "Harvest of Shame," a documentary by Edward R. Murrow, shed light on migrant labor workers' lives and the negative impact these difficult lifestyles had on migrant children. In response, President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration passed legislation in 1965 geared toward improving opportunities for migrant youth. The Migrant Education Program surfaced from this effort and extended into the Shenandoah Valley.

SVMEP served migrant and refugee families who had lived in the area for less than three years, were in search of agricultural or raw food processing work, and had limited knowledge of the English language. The program provided services like tutoring, mentoring, transportation and interpretation to immerse its students into the local culture, with the goal of creating self-sufficient citizens.

Although the focus was on children from ages three to 22, SVMEP also built relationships with students' families to establish a productive learning environment.

"It's a holistic program. It's very individualized, but parental engagement is important to us," Stoehr said. "We just look at the family as a whole unit."

Sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major Nancy Resendiz was one student whose family had participated in the program after leaving Mexico.

"I had a tutor through the Migrant Education Program, which helped me a lot," Resendiz said. "Growing up in the program with limited English proficiency, [SVMEP] just helped me get out of that very quickly."

After her family completed the program, Resendiz went on to study at JMU and became a migrant family liaison for SVMEP during her sophomore year.

"[Resendiz] thought she'd be a good fit for the program because she could really relate since she'd been through [SVMEP] with her family," Stoehr said.

Often migrant families felt motivated to join the program after seeing the success of others in their community. Resendiz's extended family followed in her footsteps and engaged in SVMEP after hearing of her success.

"They're doing so well. [My cousin] Diego is actually one of the top students in his class," Resendiz said.

Resendiz and Stoehr recounted several success stories. Stoehr recalled two Iraqi brothers who began the SVMEP with a desire to drop out of school and move back to Iraq. After graduating from SVMEP, however, one became a track star in hopes of a full-ride scholarship to college, and the other had aspirations of becoming an FBI agent.

"It's cool to go from being so discouraged to really having goals for yourself and [being] able to see that you can achieve those goals," Stoehr said.

The Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program allowed people from all walks of life a chance to grow into successful, motivated citizens.

I Christiana Freitag
PHOTOS I Courtesy of the Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program
DESIGN I Leah Jacobs



Junior Nicolas Clem plays a game with the children. Many volunteers found this program very rewarding.



Junior Hannah Stewart poses with two students for a photo. Spending quality time with the children was a key aspect of the program.

Associate professor Marta Bechtel moves tubes containing solutions to be further studied. Scientists were careful not to mix up the tubes when working in the laboratory.

BLIND AMBITION

Biology department seeks new solutions for vision problems

For years, scientists searched for ways to correct tissue and cartilage damage. Unfortunately, they had been unable to heal serious damage, but with technological advances that resulted from research, the impossible was starting to become possible. Marta Bechtel, associate professor of biology, conducted research looking at corneal tissue damage in the eye.

"Ideally, what we would prefer to do is either to be able to create a viable artificial cornea construct or [to] somehow understand the wound healing process so that we could allow cornea cells, the cells that make up the cornea, to repair tissue or regenerate tissue on their own," Bechtel said.

By the fall of 2015, a cornea transplant was the only available method of fixing vision issues. Unfortunately, this method only temporarily fixed the issue, and soon, the patient needed a new cornea. This insufficient solution fueled Bechtel's research. Bechtel explained that developing an artificial cornea would revolutionize research.

"If you could have a good, viable artificial cornea, you could use that to do lots of studies to understand drug therapies to treat different kinds of diseases or injuries, [helping us] understand what those processes are," Bechtel said.

Bechtel and her colleague Elizabeth Orwin of Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California, had been working on this project since 2004.

"We had gotten into conversations about the potential interactions, ... understanding how each of those cell types communicate with each other in their layers and how those layers of cells communicate," Bechtel said.

The artificial cornea would provide a better alternative to corneal transplants, giving patients clearer vision while maintaining the appearance of their eyes.

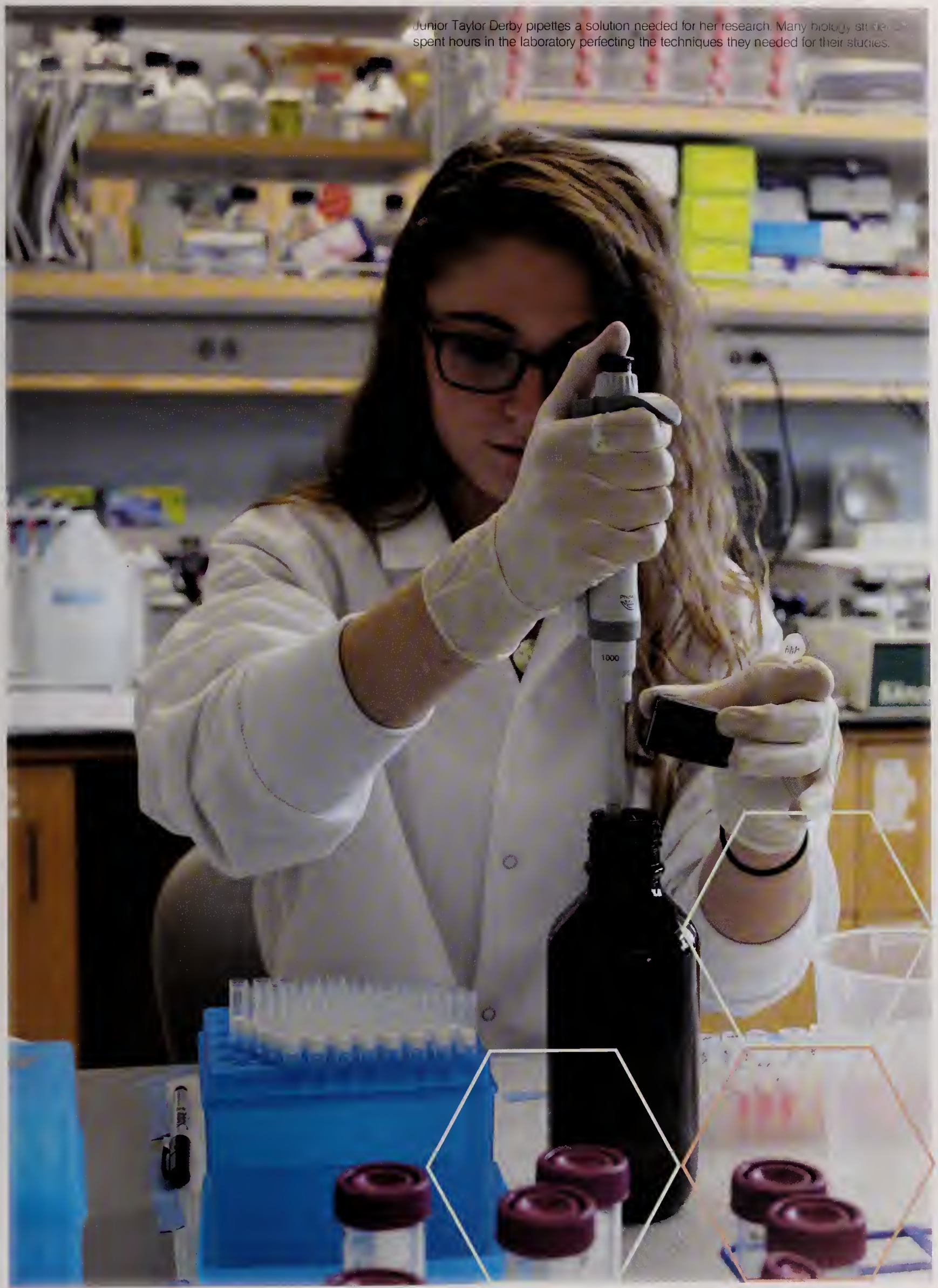
"The [corneal] construct would be clear and have that same transparency that the natural cornea has," Bechtel said.

By fall 2015, Taylor Derby, a junior biotechnology major, had worked with Bechtel for over a year. She started shadowing in the lab during her freshman year and eventually began working alongside Bechtel.

"I was actually here this summer," Derby said. "I got a lot of experience in the lab. I spent about ten weeks working on the projects we have going on now, developing new ideas. It's been awesome."

Derby had the idea to publish the cell isolation protocol. While this research had not yet been published, it was making major strides in its field. Scienists hoped to pioneer an artificial cornea, that would possibly lead to the end of blindness.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS | Danielle Lerer
DESIGN | Karen Franz



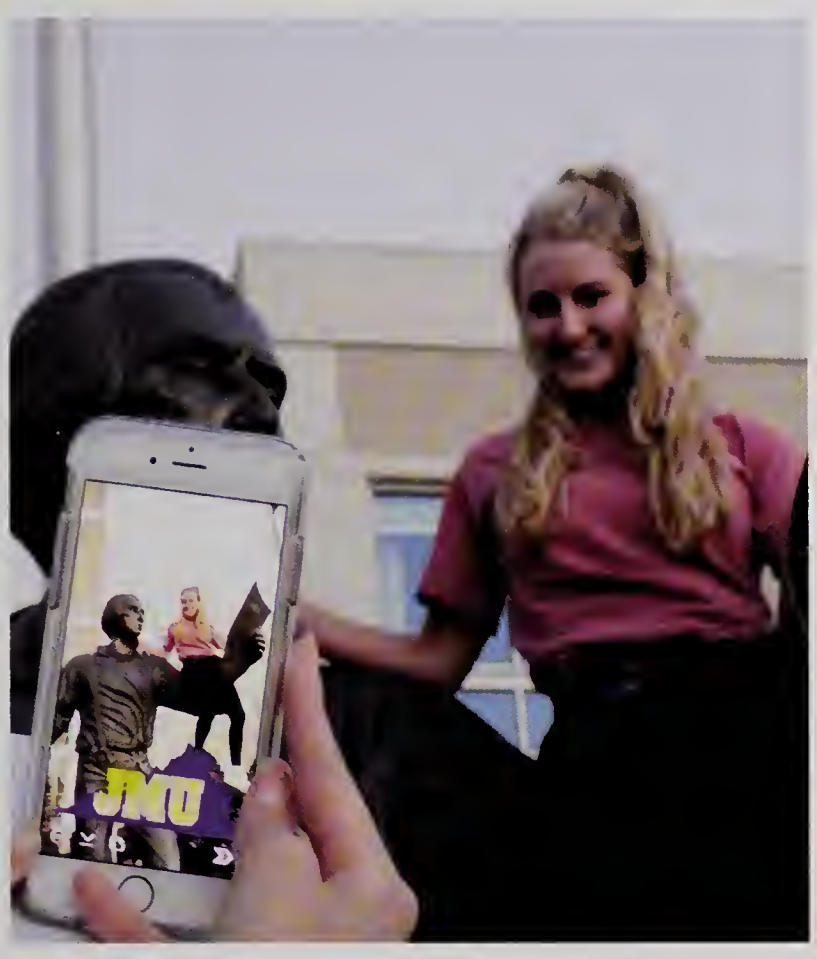
Junior Taylor Derby pipettes a solution needed for her research. Many biology students spent hours in the laboratory perfecting the techniques they needed for their studies.

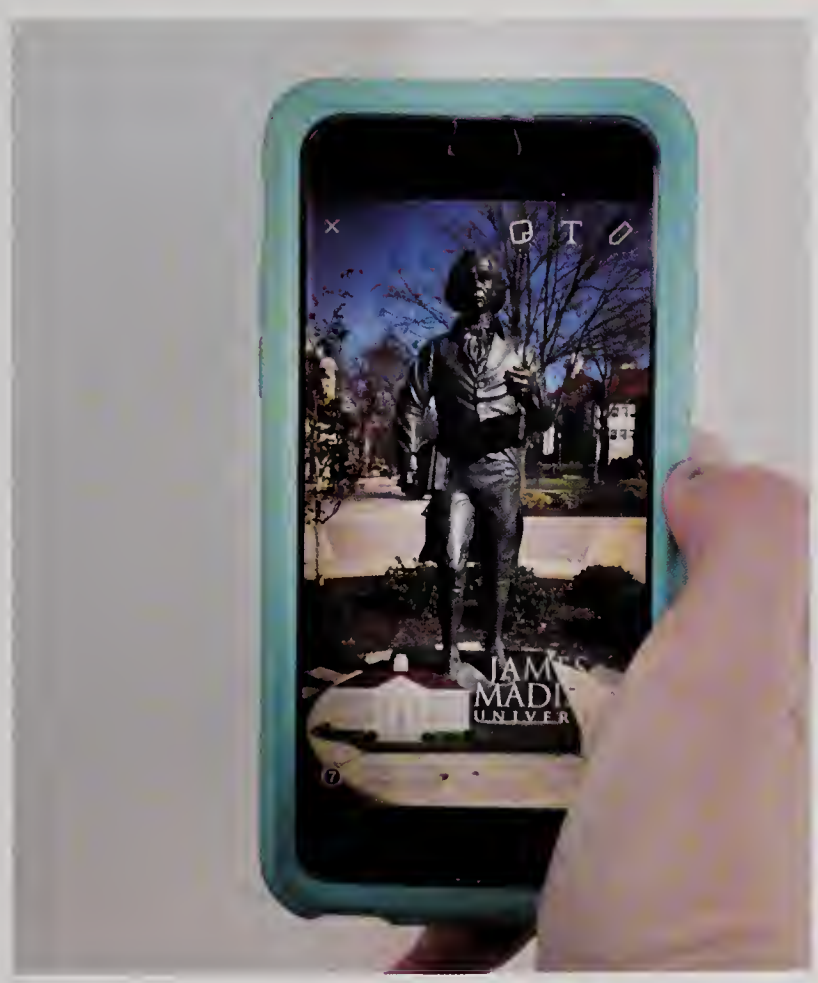
MAKE IT SNAPPY

Photo filters revolutionize the way students use social media

A JMU Geofilter overlays a photo of Wilson Hall.
These Geofilters were available only to those in the Harrisonburg area.

The Commonweath of Virginia JMU Geofilter captures the essence of school spirit as junior Sara MacMillian poses in the photo. Geofilters allowed users to illustrate where they were in the world.





The Wilson Hall Geofilter decorates a photo of the James Madison statue on Main Campus. Snapchat users could use this feature to share with their followers their love of JMU.

Business Insider rated Snapchat the third most popular social media application among millennials in 2015, surpassing even Facebook and Twitter. Adding Geofilters to the application seemed to increase Snapchat's popularity over other forms of social media. These tags could be placed over a Snapchat image, an action commonly referred to as "geotagging," and were associated with a specific geographical location.

Geofilters could be either Snapchat-approved original artwork or pre-made masterpieces available to all Snapchat users.

At JMU, several departments aided in creating filters for campus events, such as 1787 August Orientation.

Allison Lindsey, a senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication and international affairs double major, interned as an orientation operations assistant for the Orientation Office.

"I would edit the One Book and mainly anything that needed to be reviewed, and that meant that I worked closely with the social media coordinator because she handles all the materials," Lindsey said. "We talked about the Snapchat filter to see if it could happen, and then we tried to do it."

When creating the Geofilters, Lindsey selected a specific area where she wanted the overlay to appear. After selecting JMU's campus, she was able to narrow the location even further.

"We only selected JMU's campus to prevent users from using it improperly and making 1787 something it isn't," Lindsey said. "We made it say '1787' at the bottom, and it was viewable just during the orientation week. Calling it '1787' makes it about the first-years, and we want to make it known that the first-years are being celebrated."

Lindsey's idea to celebrate first-years resonated with new students, such as Jessica Krislow, a freshman communication science and disorders major.

"I use Snapchat's Geofilters a lot," Krislow said. "I like the little JMU ones and the Virginia state one. I think they should offer even more varieties."

The 1787 Geofilters succeeded in helping students at JMU getting acquainted with the community, while cultivating new friendships.

WRITER | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Meghan Markwell and Jillian Wright
DESIGN | Breanna Young

PRETTY HURTS

A capella group creates viral video about body image





Above: The all-female a cappella group Note-oriety sings in Bridgeforth Stadium while shooting their music video. The video sought to motivate the audience to work toward change.
Below: In the video, senior Charnice Frazier allows a student to see a positive word that describes her. Members wanted to highlight body positivity in this piece.

In the fall of 2015, Note-oriety, one of JMU's a cappella groups, added their melodious voices to the international dialogue on self-image. The group received global support after releasing their first music video, a cover of Beyoncé's "Pretty Hurts." In releasing a video that celebrated healthy body image, members countered the media's perpetual depictions of negativity and impossible standards. And with hundreds of thousands of views, the influence of Note-oriety's video extended far beyond JMU.

Zoe-Elizabeth McCray, a senior music major and one of the soloists in the video, arranged the song. McCray recalled that there was something special about the piece from the beginning.

"Usually, [to arrange a song,] people might sit down at a piano and listen to a song and figure out the chordal structure of the song or something like that," McCray said. "With this song, I quite literally woke up from a dream and heard all of the music in my head."

After learning the arrangement, Note-oriety members decided to create a music video of their rendition of "Pretty Hurts." They enlisted David Bittner, a media arts and design major who graduated in 2015, as their cinematographer. Bittner explained that the piece's message remained constant throughout the entire process.

"The core of the video — the message — was one of the things that never changed," Bittner said. "It was all about self-worth, positive body image and positive mental … health, and it was bringing people together."

In filming the video, Note-oriety's members worked with Bittner to craft a piece that involved real JMU students. Laine Hodges, a junior communication studies major, had the original idea for the video and played a major role in the creative process. Hodges remembered that while filming, the group approached students and prompted them to give one word that portrayed them negatively, followed by one that described them positively.

"It was harder for people to come up with a positive word about themselves, which, if anything, just reiterated our desire to make this video and spread this message because it is so desperately needed by so many people," Hodges said.

McCray noted that during filming, the ensemble hoped to allow the audience to relate to those in the video. With this in mind, the group members wore little makeup while on camera, and Bittner avoided touch-ups when editing.

"It was all very organic — very planned, but very organic and so genuine and truthful," McCray said.

Triumphing over freezing weather and busy schedules, those involved in creating the video agreed that their success was a result of their enthusiasm for the message of self-worth.

"It took every one of us to be super passionate about it for it to be successful," Bittner said.

Rachel Belleman, a musical theatre major who graduated in 2015, was also a soloist in the video. Belleman believed that in terms of negative body image, societal change began with the individual.

"If we all just accept who we are and share our voices, we have so much power to make a change," Belleman said in a telephone interview.

Note-oriety's members sought to inspire men and women to rethink their perceptions of themselves, even in a society that often hurled negativity. Their piece's success demonstrated that the world responded to strong women with a message to share. Members hoped that, empowered by the video, the audience would move one step closer to change.

WORDS | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | Courtesy of David Bittner
DESIGN | Jacqueline Garcia

YOU'RE ADDICTED TO FLOW

Madison Singers contribute to JMU's musical presence

Preserving music and the fine arts at universities was a topic that many in the education sphere discussed. The Madison Singers resonated with this community through their dedication to vocal arrangements and passion for performance. During their performances, the choral ensemble of 36 students incorporated genres of vocal jazz, percussive techniques, classical music and challenging pieces with lyrics in foreign languages.

Megan Rainey, a second year master's student studying piano performance, served as an accompanist for the group, both as a pianist and singer. Rainey joined the Madison Singers in January 2015 as a graduate student, although she still fulfilled the same roles as an undergraduate singer.

Rainey detailed the audition process, which required the singers to rehearse each semester, regardless of whether they were returning or new members.

"You sign up at the beginning of each semester," Rainey said. "You prepare a vocal piece in a foreign language — typically in French or German — you do some rhythmic, melodic sight readings that you've never seen before, and it's usually 15-20 minutes per audition."

The Madison Singers performed at venues around town, including the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts and Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The group also attended many musical events, including the Piccolo Spoleto Festival and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The group even had the privilege of singing as the backup choir for American musician Joshua "Josh" Groban in the fall of 2015. According to Joanne van der Vat-Chromy, the director of the Madison Singers and assistant professor of choral music education, the hardworking ensemble of musicians exceeded her expectations.

"My job as a professor is to create a culture where the academic rigor and difficulty level of the music is matched by a social culture that is safe, empowering, joyful and transparent," van der Vat-Chromy said in an email interview. "When these two pieces merge, we experience music and music-making on a transpersonal level — we call that 'flow.' Flow experiences are some of the most exciting parts of music-making. It is what allows us to feel as though we are 'sung' by something far greater than [when] we are alone."

Van der Vat-Chromy touched on something that made rallying for the fine arts among universities worthwhile, referring to this idea as a hashtag: #addictedtoflow. As the Madison Singers remained dedicated to practice and performance, the university continued to support the ensemble's accomplishments around campus.

WRITER | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Courtesy of the Madison Singers
DESIGN | Karen Franz

The Madison Singers pose with international star Josh Groban. The ensemble traveled to Pennsylvania to perform with Groban.





The choral ensemble prepares for a performance in their formal attire. The audience applauded their incredible vocals.



The Madison Singers showcase their vocal abilities onstage. The group sang in the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts and at other venues near and far.



The sign outside Wayland Hall displays the LEED certification, showing the hall's committment to the environment. The university continued to improve aspects of campus to make it more environmentally friendly.

Flowers bloom alongside a stop on the environmental stewardship tour. JMU planted signs like these to provide more information to passersby.



Fall foliage decorates East Campus, home to a water-conservation pond. This pond was home to wildlife.



ENVIRON-MENT TO BE

Campus plants the seed of enivronmental stewardship

While JMU prided itself on being one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, it achieved recognition for housing one of the "Ten Greenest Dorms in the World" — Wayland Hall. Wayland was the first renovated residence hall in the United States to achieve platinum-level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

This was just the beginning of JMU's commitment to creating a more environmentally friendly campus. Many students noticed the renovations made to Newman Lake, which included a reservoir to collect pollutants and sediments, a reconstructed shoreline to prevent erosion, and an installed aquatic beach for added filtration and habitat restoration.

"The area surrounding [Greek] row is so pretty now," sophomore international affairs major Christina Dinges said. "All of the renovations to Newman [Lake] over the past year or so have definitely brought back a certain aesthetic appeal. Plus, it never hurts to make things better for the environment."

However, some students believed that their commitment to a greener world should not stop there.

"I think that it could be better. Maybe we should make all dorms green and not just Wayland," sophomore media arts and design and marketing double major Haley Nininger said. "I think that it could make our campus more beautiful, because we could have those cool [rooves] with the grass on top and have more green around campus in general."

Other students took the discussion a step further, focusing on more than just renovations to on-campus residential buildings.

"Trash cans at other colleges are solar-compacting, and the water fountains also help you save more water by showing you how many bottles you've saved, which educates the general public," senior justice studies and modern foreign languages double major Angela DeFraia said. "JMU also needs to make the campus more bike friendly because right now, you can't really go on roads or sidewalks, so if you want to reduce the carbon footprint, where can you bike?"

In addition to these renovations, the university also updated the courtyard next to Chandler Hall by replacing the original concrete plaza with a combination of landscape and hardscape areas. The goal was to reduce the total impervious cover of the space, improving rainwater filtration and reducing water runoff.

The John C. Wells Planetarium in Miller Hall also made improvements in working toward environmental stewardship.

"I really like that the astronomy program is trying to reduce light pollution," DeFraia said. "It's an issue that unfortunately a lot of people overlook."

Since JMU began the movement to become more environmentally conscious in 2008, the campus became spruced up from East Campus to the Quad. As there were always improvements to be made, students recognized and appreciated JMU's efforts to remain one of the most beautiful colleges in the country.

WRITER | Hannah Beverage
PHOTOS | Danielle Lerer
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao

BREAKING GROUND

From wreckage to a new UREC

Exercising on a treadmill or elliptical in UREC often required students to sign a whiteboard and wait around for the occupant to leave. Often, students exited the building out of frustration, no longer motivated to exercise. Such crowded spaces spurred the UREC renovation.

"I'd like to see some squat racks. UREC needs some more equipment," senior kinesiology major Raeann McCarty said.

In order to please students, JMU pushed for the UREC expansion project. The expansion was completed in two phases: the first for the addition and the second for renovated areas. In 2011, former JMU president Lynwood Rose committed to building on to UREC.

In 2013, the expansion commenced soon after the university finalized the budget. The UREC staff surveyed students through email, and comment cards to see which spaces needed improvement. Working with architects, the staff helped put the plan into action.

"There's one big kind of … vision for the building," UREC director Eric Nickel said. "Each area in the building was coordinated by [a UREC staff member] responsible for that part of the building. I was a driving force for what it would look like."

Nickel arrived at JMU when the original UREC opened in 1994, so he was able to see its growth. A large part of the expansion revolved around obtaining the Leadership in Energy and Environmetnal Design certification. This system measured energy-efficient sustainability in the design and construction of building operations.

> "The expansion offered numerous perks, making it well worth the time spent in renovation."

According to Nickel, LED lights, fitness equipment that used less power, a bus stop that led directly to the building and commuter carpool spaces were ways that earned the facility points toward LEED certifications.

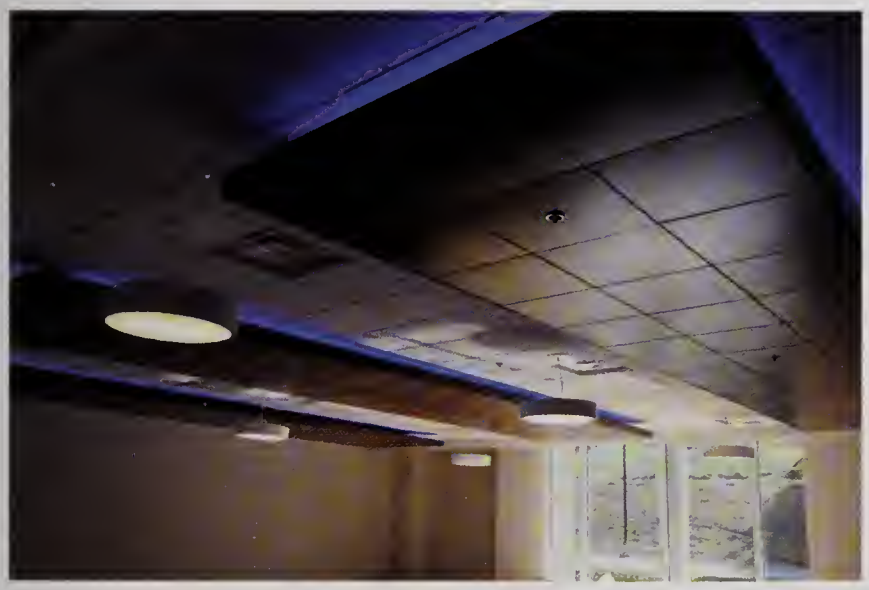
"We hope the building is between silver and gold, but we don't find out until the end," Nickel said. "We're trying to earn enough points, so we reuse existing materials rather than tear them down."

Although it could be difficult to convince JMU students to wait patiently for facilities that were once so popular, the UREC expansion offered numerous perks that seemed to make it well worth the time spent in renovation.

WRITING | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Nicole Landry and University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs and Alexandra Orndahl











Top left: The new pool is ready for swimmers to jump in and exercise their muscles. UREC reminded students the pool was for excercise only.
Top right: Sophomore Sarah Beidleman uses a stationary lateral pulldown to exercise her back. Many were eager to have more stationary machines.
Middle left: The upgraded ceilings in UREC offer optimal lighting for working out. The workout areas also had more natural lighting.
Middle right: The new workout rooms offer more space for weight lifting and cardiovascular exercise. In the past, many felt as if there was not enough space to get a proper workout.
Bottom: Construction workers place new concrete for the pathway to and from UREC. More entrances helped the overcrowding issue.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Warren Hall modernizes into Madison Union

As the new students arrived on campus, so did additions to the reconstructed student union. The university renamed this popular gathering place "Madison Union" during its grand opening. Previous students knew this building as Warren Hall, which formerly housed the Office of the Registrar, University Business Office and Card Services, along with many other offices and study quarters. In the new and improved student union, the building expanded the study areas, University Program Board office, ballroom and mail room. In addition to these expansions, the most popular spot in Madison Union was in the basement shared with Taylor Hall. Replacing Java City, a small coffee shop, the university added an Auntie Anne's in the student hot spot Taylor Down Under. The new eatery filled the room with the smell of salty and sweet pretzels, which many students did not oppose. All of the additions to Madison Union left many upperclassmen feeling confused while giving new students the upper hand in navigating campus.

WORDS | Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | Hannah Adams and University Unions Technology and Design
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl and Leah Jacobs

Since the second-floor expansion, many students use the study areas more frequently. This often allowed for improved focus and grades.





Students make their own pretzels during the grand opening of Aunti A
The treat shop provided students in TDU with a fresh, new dining option

e Anne's displays its wide array of pretzel flavors.
ents ate these treats while taking part in the TDU atmosphere.



student musician performs at TDU. The space held eekly Open Mic Nights for students.





The improved mailroom opens in Madison Union. The grand opening featured activities and prizes for visitors.

The opening of Madison Union offers airbrush tattoos to visito
Many students came out to see the changes to Warren Hall.

The new College of Health and Behavioral Sciences building stands in the preparation process. The building accomodated the expanding health field.







A PLACE TO CALL HOME

The College of Health and Behavioral Sciences moves across campus

As the majors within the College of Health and Behaviorial Sciences continued to grow, the university prepared to physically expand its departments in the form of a new building. Moving from East Campus to a new location adjacent to the Student Success Center, the development was set to house many departments within the college. The CHBS building featured large lecture halls, interactive classrooms, meeting spaces, teaching labs and classroom configurations specific to certain programs.

"Our college continues to grow," Sharon Lovell, the dean of CHBS, said. "We have an increasing number of majors, and we don't have enough space to accommodate all the students. The instructional methods and technology are changing, so to engage in best practices for learning and to allow our students and faculty to better engage in interprofessional experiences, we needed different kinds of spaces."

The design housed faculty from different departments across floors to promote interaction between programs.

"Collaboration is a real hallmark of the design of this space," Lovell said.

This expansion benefitted a wide range of majors and programs.

"It will be convenient for nursing students as well because they can go straight to the [CHBS] building and not go back and forth," junior health sciences major Chyann Mealy said.

Both the integrated science and technology and engineering programs also benefitted from this change. The space that was used for CHBS classes in the ISAT/HHS building was renovated to make space for these other departments to expand.

"[The renovation] serves all those kinds of disciplines really well," Lovell said.

The move was a major accomplishment in the decision process, and Lovell saw the location as very fortuitous. Its close proximity to the SSC and the University Health Center allowed for more collaborative opportunites. Students also considered the forthcoming parking garage across the street from the CHBS building a factor working in favor of the move.

"I like that there will be better parking on Main Campus," sophomore health sciences major Heather McKay said.

The university situated the building on the border of campus with the intention of welcoming the community.

"We're going to have a [laboratory] that will welcome … clients from both the university and the community of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County," Lovell said.

This change in venue seemed to enthuse faculty members and students who believed that an isolated space for this college was a necessary response to the field's growth.

WORDS | Christiana Freitag
PHOTOS | Jillian Wright
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao

DECKED OUT

Students gain access to more parking on Main Campus

Over the course of the school year, there were many anxious glances toward the intersection of Mason Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way as students waited eagerly for the completion of a much-needed new parking facility — the Mason Street Parking Deck.

Work began in earnest during the 2014-2015 academic year and included finding a contractor and finalizing the design for the project.

"The administration makes determinations on the need for new parking facilities based on a number of factors, including increased demand and the addition of new facilities," field operations manager Benjamin Lundy said. "Exact allocations have not yet been determined, but it is expected that the majority of the Mason Street Parking Deck will be allocated for student use."

The new deck, which was due to be completed July 26, 2016, would contain 1,022 parking spaces. These spaces would be useful to those who had struggled with the lack of available parking spots in the past.

"With all of my classes located on the Quad, I have had a terrible time finding consistent parking," junior justice studies major Emily Jaumillot said. "The Mason Parking Deck is going to be so wonderful for students who only need access to the Quad. It is so important to provide enough commuter spaces for those who need it, because why would you want to create one more obstacle for student success?"

Besides the anticipated Mason Street Parking Deck, there was talk of other future parking areas.

"The addition of multiple new JMU facilities and potential future projects has increased demand for parking on the Main Campus," Lundy said. "In the near future, it is expected that the completed Montpelier Hall and renovation of Madison Hall will also increase parking demand."

The new Mason Street Parking Deck would benefit many of those within the JMU community, providing better access to Main Campus for students who did not have this ease in the past.

WORDS | Hannah Beverage
PHOTOS | Danielle Lerer
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens

The Mason Street Parking Deck stands during the renovation process. Administrators hoped that the deck would allow commuting students to get to class more easily.

JMU alumnus G.J. Hart speaks at the unveiling of the Hart School of Hospitality, Sport and Recreation Management. Hart and his wife made a generous donation to benefit students in the program.

President Alger stands with G.J. and Heather Hart to honor the couple for their generosity and commitment to students. Those impacted felt that the Harts' gift would change the nature of donating at JMU.

A GIFT FROM THE HART

Historic act of selflessness leaves a positive impact on the university



The Hart family brought new meaning to the JMU motto "Be the Change," when they pledged a $3.5 million gift to the university in March 2015. The benefactors were JMU alumnus G.J. Hart and his wife, Heather Hart. The gift led to the renaming of the School of Hospitality, Sport and Recreation Management to the Hart School of Hospitality, Sport and Recreation Management. This was the university's first named school.

"This gift will benefit far more than just our school; it is the catalyst that will change giving at JMU," hospitality management professor Taricia Pippert said.

A celebration in October 2015 revealed the Hart School logo and honored the Hart family for their generosity.

"I was very fortunate to be able to attend the unveiling of the Hart School," senior hospitality management major Laura Chilton said. "The event was a lot of fun because it was a great opportunity to mingle with faculty, industry professionals, family and friends of the Harts, as well as other classmates, and really take part in the celebration."

During the ceremony, guest speakers commented on the Harts' commitment to service and passion for giving back to the JMU community.

"The ceremony itself was a true testament to how thankful the students and faculty members of the university, and specifically the programs, are to the Harts' generosity," senior sport and recreation management major Katelynn Sundheim said. "I was very honored to play a role within the ceremony [as a representative of all sport and recreation majors] and had the opportunity to personally thank the Hart family for their selfless contribution to our program."

The school's official naming had a positive impact, both directly and indirectly, on students in the majors.

"This instills a sense of pride within the program, and each student feels as if their program has newfound value," Sundheim said. "I know moving forward, students are going to be proud to have the Harts' name not only on the program and the school, but more importantly, as role models they should strive to mirror."

A myriad of students, such as a senior hospitality management major Daniela Ilijic, concurred that naming the Hart School inspired students to set an example for the university community and its benefactors.

"I think now upperclassmen will live up to a certain name, because they want to be that JMU student as well as a representative of the Hart family," Ilijic said.

Many involved individuals hoped this philanthropic act would continue as a ripple effect among surrounding colleges.

"Seeing how one JMU school has been named will definitely open it up to other schools on campus and [to] other universities in the Virginia area," Ilijic said.

Moving forward, students and faculty maintained high hopes for the future, believing that all those involved in the program would benefit from the gift.

"The faculty will now have more resources to make sure the current and future students in the program will stand out above the rest," junior hospitality management major Drew Dembek said. "As positive changes begin to settle in, the underclassmen will have unprecedented benefits, and I am looking forward to watching the program grow."

The lasting impact the Harts left on the JMU community truly altered the concept of giving back, serving the campus with a selfless gift and providing countless benefits to the university as a whole.

WORDS | Jillian Wright
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs

RELAXING THE DAY AWAY

Students de-stress to cope with the struggles of college life

Between studying for finals, applying for jobs and internships, keeping up with organizations, and attempting to maintain a social life, students had to deal with their fair share of stress in college. However, through spaces like The Oasis, which was established in the Counseling Center in the fall of 2014, students were able to relieve some of their anxiety through the power of relaxation and art therapy.

Brittany Cover, a graduate assistant for The Oasis, described the space, which featured massage chairs, yoga mats, aromatherapy diffusers, a fountain, dimmed lights and quiet music. The Oasis was a center of tranquility where students, faculty and staff could come to leave their worries behind.

"I think there are just so many different issues that college students face that shouldn't be ignored," Cover said. "Not everybody is interested in counseling and things of that nature, so it's definitely a way for people to come in [and] relax. It also kind of gives a gateway for students to know where the Counseling Center is and know where the resources are in case they ever needed something."

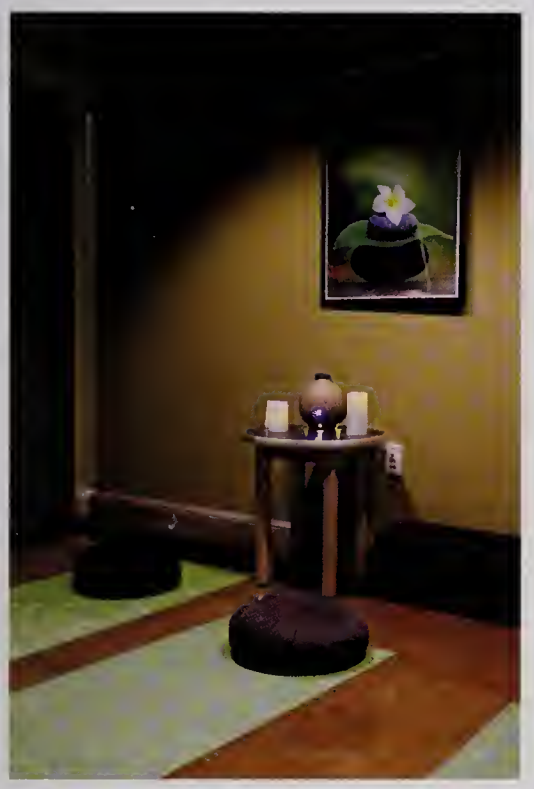
The Counseling Center, located in the Student Success Center, also featured a space called The Studio in which visitors could use a variety of art supplies to relieve some tension through art therapy.

Marlaina Farbstein, a senior psychology major, worked as an intern at The Studio during the fall 2015 semester.

"A lot of students … are going to be very stressed with work, with school, family relationships [and] various things like that," Farbstein said. "I think that [The Studio] just gives people a chance to have some reflection time with themselves, whether they're thinking about what they're producing artwise, or if they're thinking about other things in their life … just kind of decompressing and letting everything else go and just being in the present time."

All that was needed to access this soothing space was to present a JACard and watch a short, informational video. Students, faculty and staff were then free to explore, relax and create, leaving behind the stresses of life and entering a world of serenity and self-awareness.

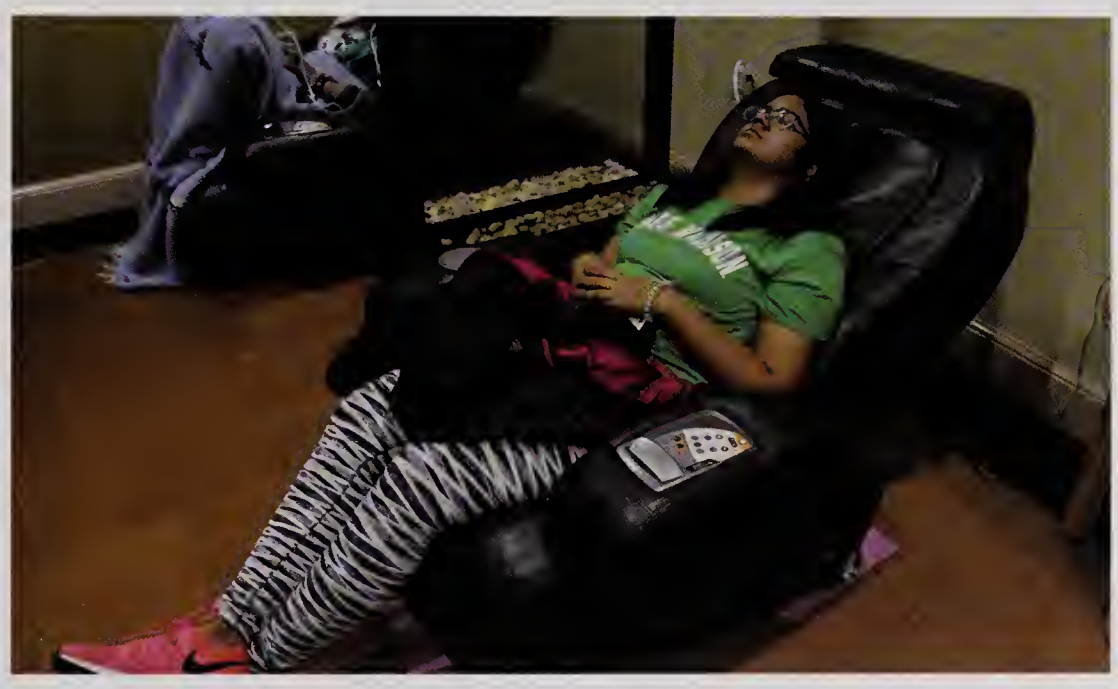
WORDS | Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS | Jillian Wright
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens



The Oasis is complete with yoga mats and dimmed lighting. Visitors could look up yoga positions on iPads the Counseling Center provided.



While reclining on beanbag chairs, freshman Kirsten Rowe de-stresses by listening to music. This space provided visitors with a worry-free environment.



Massage chairs allow sophomore Bhoomika Manjunath to relax during a stressful week. The Oasis offered a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere for students, faculty and staff.

TAKING LEARNING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Learning centers on campus come to students' rescue

At one point or another, most, if not all, students had to write a paper. Be it a short reflection piece or a twenty-page research paper, students had the option of going to the University Writing Center in the Student Success Center to brainstorm with skilled tutors. The University Writing Center was just one of the six learning centers on campus.

"We like to focus on the expertise of explanation, something that is found in our tutors," director of the JMU learning centers Kurt Schick said.

Schick explained the learning centers would not function without the tutors, and that there was also extensive learning that went on behind the scenes. Specialized tutors worked in the various learning centers, including the Digital Communication Center, English Language Learner Center, and Science and Math Learning Center.

"We try to use the centers to better understand how students learn," Schick said. "This is especially helpful when looking at assignment design. We want to give professors the opportunity to create more effective assignments in order to help the students learn better."

While professors gained insight on their students' minds, students utilized this resource to navigate through tough assignments. Adrienne Griggs, the administrative assistant in charge of managing and running the logistics of the six learning centers, stated that the learning centers were for everyone, not only those struggling to get through general education requirements.

"As a staff member, JMU allows [staff members] to take classes," Griggs said. "I recently took a class, and I had to write a paper, so I came to the learning centers for support. It was great to come in and brainstorm with the tutors, and my paper came out stronger than it would've if I had written it on my own."

> "We try to use the centers to better understand how the students learn."

Before the SSC opened in 2014, the university housed the six Learning Centers in three separate buildings on campus. Once the learning centers were side by side in the SSC, they brought together JMU students, faculty and those taking a class or two to further their education. This integration ran deep in the roots of the vision that Schick and others had for the centers.

"The new building has been really important to us as a department," Schick said. "It is easier for the students to find [our offices], and it also provides us with coherence that we did not have before."

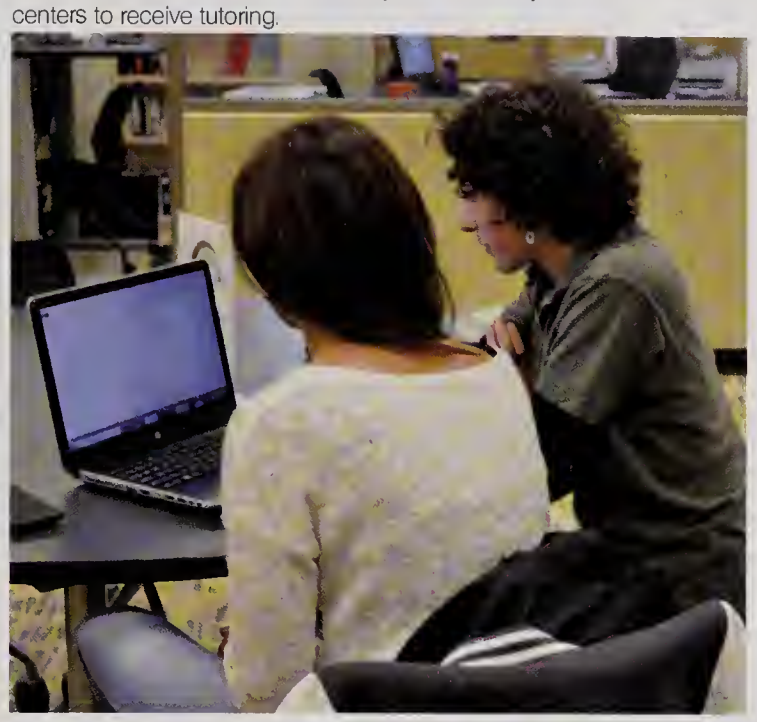
The learning centers provided a space for students and professors to engage in learning and find solutions to help alleviate the stress of schoolwork.

WRITER | Hannah Adams
PHOTOS | Nicole Landry
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

Freshman Morgan Wolf learns from her tutor in the Science and Math Learning Center. Students could walk into the SMLC to be tutored.

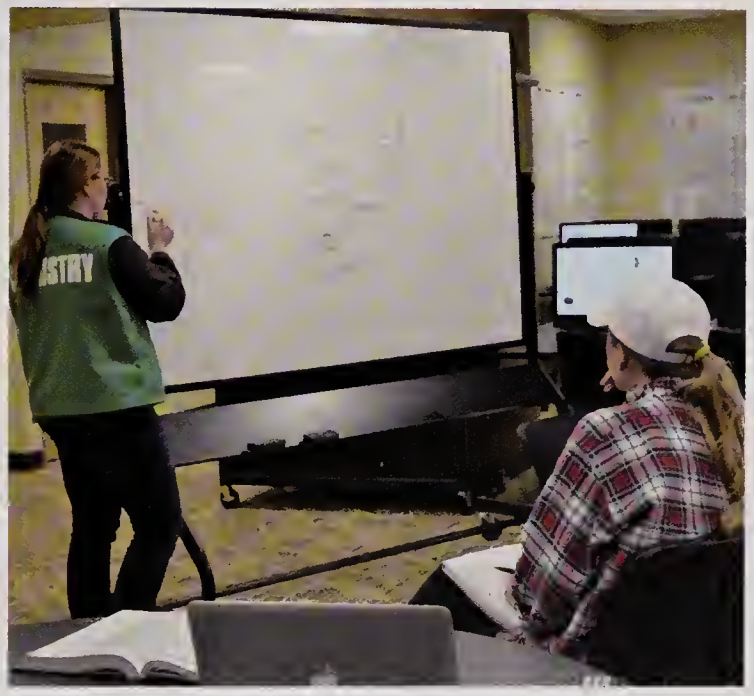


Sophomore Airya Pangilinan and her tutor work on a writing assignment in one of the six learning centers. Many students visited the centers to receive tutoring.





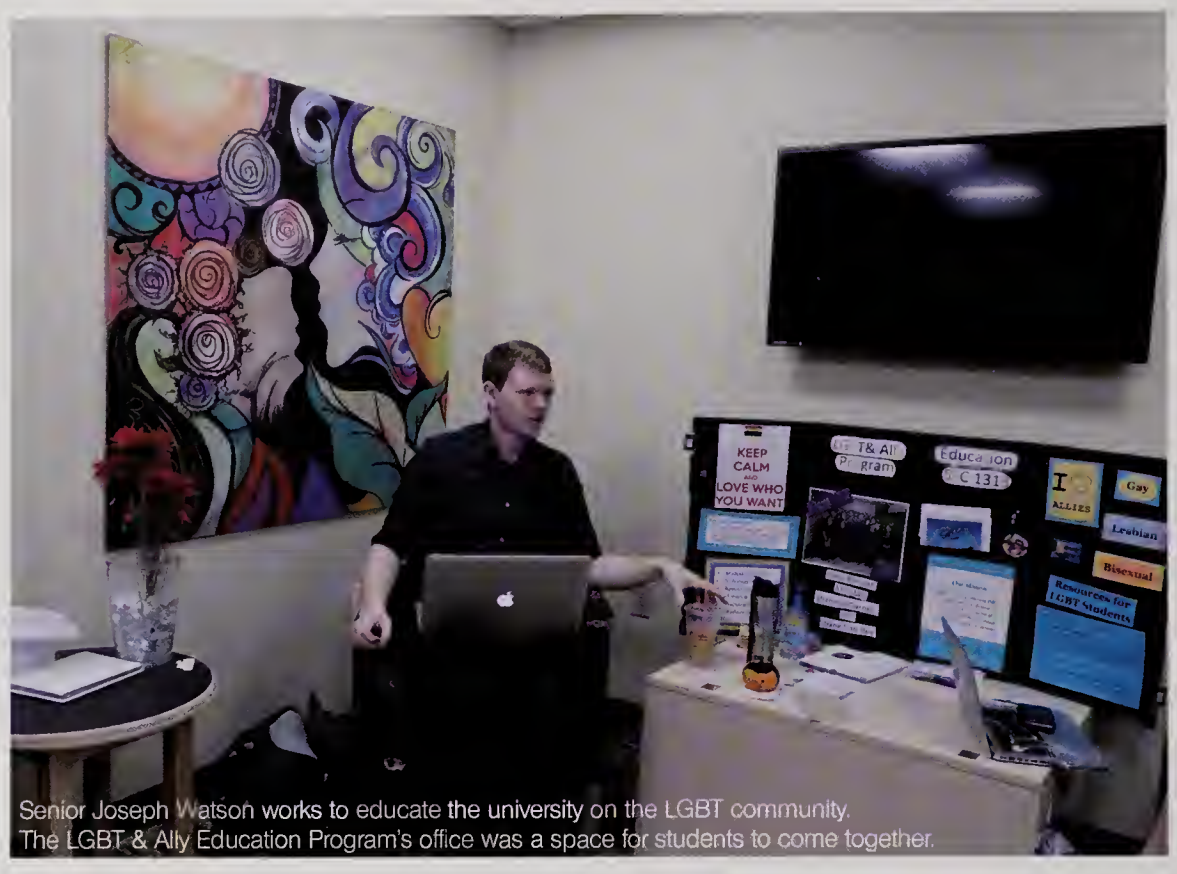
Senior Katie Hester works with her tutor Marlena Luciano on an assigment. Faculty also volunteered in the learning centers to help students in need.



Junior Megan West work on chemistry in the Science and Math Learning Center. The open space and ample seating options in the learning centers allowed students to collaborate.

ACCEPTING ALL

Program promotes equality on campus



Senior Joseph Watson works to educate the university on the LGBT community. The LGBT & Ally Education Program's office was a space for students to come together.

In its dynamism, JMU's student body defied any standard, and its layers of diversity added intrigue to daily life on campus. Through the LGBT & Ally Education Program, members of JMU's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and their allies came together under a banner of acceptance.

Senior communication studies major Shannon Garner was the program's student events coordinator. Garner explained that the program served the dual purpose of both allowing LGBT students to support each other and welcoming students who wanted to learn about this community.

"We supply resources and a safe space for all LGBTQ-identifying students and their allies," Garner said. "We also plan events and work around national holidays in the LGBTQ community."

Through their office located in the Student Success Center, students had access to resources that they may not have had otherwise. As well as serving as a space where students could spend time together, the office contained a resource library and a free-expression wardrobe.

Nicholas Sorber, a freshman who had not yet declared a major, volunteered in the program's office. Sorber noted that this space was available to anyone who wanted to know more about the LGBT community.

"If anyone has any questions about the LGBTQ+ community, or if they just want to talk about things, they can come in here," Sorber said. "I'm here for that."

Joseph Watson, a senior health sciences major, explained that the program's scope was not limited to its resources and events but went further by advocating for students from all walks of life.

"We are a society, but we all come from different backgrounds, different experiences; we have different values," Watson said. " … And so we encourage people to express their individuality and to not feel ashamed by what they've gone through and who they are."

The program's name exemplified the fact that it did not exist solely for members of the LGBT community, but for their allies as well. Anyone who supported this community was invited to participate in the program and explore a world that may have been previously unfamiliar to them.

"Allies aren't just there when it's convenient for them; they're there through the thick and thin," senior social work major Julia Stoneham said. "They don't really care what other people think; they're more concerned about helping people who have been marginalized."

Garner explained that no student had to fit a mold in the LGBT & Ally Education Program and that no one would be turned away from becoming a part of the community.

"The spirit that embodies this program is really just acceptance — it's complete acceptance and it even goes beyond further than that," Garner said. "It's a want of people to be here. So when people are here, they're truly wanted."

The LGBT community at JMU was not separate from the student body but was an active part of the university. Through the LGBT & Ally Education Program, students could learn and grow together. Members of the program boldly sought equality on JMU's campus, furthering the university's pillar of diversity.

WRITER | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | Meghan Markwell and Carley Toms
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao

Two students join pinkies in a symbol of solidarity.
Members of the LGBT community were involved students on campus.

> “Members of the program boldly sought equality on JMU’s campus.”

ON THE DAILY

Student-run blog offers advice to Dukes

The common struggle of studying, test-taking and completing tedious projects could weigh heavily on the student body. As a result, JMU's Office of Communications and Marketing sought new ways to make students feel more at home. The Daily Duke, JMU's student-run blog, was one of them.

A group of nine interns contributed a variety of content to The Daily Duke, which centered specifically on student life at JMU. The interns created digital graphics, videos, written work, print designs and infographics for the blog, which included campus events that impacted undergraduate students. Prospective students were also included on the blog, helping to bolster the university's appeal.

JMU alumna Caitlyn Read worked with students to create the blog, which they then publicly launched in January 2015. Read, a 2010 graduate and current associate director of communications, described the WordPress platform used to build the website.

"I wanted to create a place for students to interact in an engaging way," Read said. "WordPress is a great platform for this interaction."

Michele Goad, a senior media arts and design major, served as a content contributor for the blog and helped with writing and designing banners.

"Writing for the blog helped me get practice in things that didn't pertain to my major," Goad said. "I got to work with video, and I learned all specific types of media. It's all about what you make it."

Students from all majors had the opportunity to contribute to The Daily Duke, as there were numerous topics from which to choose. Student and campus life, arts and culture, sports, and other broad topics helped to diversify the content.

"We come up with ideas at meetings," Goad said. "We've written stories on happy hour before. It can be anything that a student is interested in, no matter what age or gender the student is. It's all about life on our campus."

The Daily Duke team developed user-generated content or took ideas from Instagram and other popular social media accounts. JMU students also gave feedback through WordPress.

"One thing we're trying to get is more interactivity," Goad said. "We want students to comment back."

The Daily Duke fulfilled its mission as a new student-run publication by aiding college students in their busy, sometimes overwhelming lives in order to ease the transition to adulthood.

| Taylor Kahny
| Courtesy of The Daily Duke
| Alexandra Rathjens and Leah Jacobs











The staff of The Daily Duke showcases their creative talent on their student-run blog. The staff were knowledgeable in writing, graphic design and web design.

SPINNING THE HITS

Student-run station lights up the radio waves



Beneath the lights, The Front Bottoms perform for an enthusiastic crowd. WXJM sponsored a concert at Clementine Cafe for music fans to enjoy.



Members of WXJM celebrate the end of the year with a picnic. Those involved in WXJM brought nontraditional music to the Harrisonburg area.



WXJM members manage a table during 1787 August Orientation. The station wanted first-year students to be aware of the organization's involvement at JMU.



WXJM merchandise and paraphernalia decorate the floor. DJs at the station hoped to introduce students to new music.

Born and raised in Harrisonburg, senior Chandler Dang began his WXJM radio experience as a DJ. As a hospitality management major, Dang believed joining WXJM, a local, student-run radio station, was the best decision he made at JMU. Upon being appointed to the DJ board, Dang expanded his knowledge of the radio station and eventually became the program director.

His duties included keeping track of program logs and playlists, working with the music directors to choose song rotations and overseeing the placement of DJs in on-air time slots. In addition, Dang ran monthly meetings and collected student JACard numbers and emails so those interested in WXJM could remain informed. Dang experienced many unforgettable opportunities as program director.

"I got the chance to do a phone interview with Julian Casablancas, the lead singer for The Strokes. They are my favorite band of all time, and Julian is my idol. I couldn't believe it at the time, and I was so nervous," Dang said. "Our music director, Alec Moss, also did the interview with me. I was a total goofball over the phone. Julian said my name and made jokes … I will never forget that."

Dang credited a lot of his success to his adviser at the station, Thomas Duval.

"The general manager, business manager and I would be lost without him," Dang said. "He's been working in radio for a long time, so we all trust his word and greatly respect him."

Dang said that after the fall 2015 semester ended, he planned on conducting one-on-one sessions with Duval to expand his knowledge of the radio world and talk about a career in radio. As the station's program director, Dang's goal was to provide listeners with good, sometimes unfamiliar music that was not considered to be mainstream.

"I think I can speak for all of us here when I say that there's a lot of good music out there, and WXJM is an excellent source to find music you didn't even know you liked," Dang said. "WXJM or any college radio station is a place to discover new music. I thought I knew a lot of artists before I joined, but I was so wrong."

Dang felt rewarded when people called in during radio shows to let the DJs know that they were enjoying the music.

"It's very heartwarming," Dang said.

Dang hoped to continue his radio experience after his graduation in December 2015 and pursue a career in radio.

WORDS I Emily Burdette
PHOTOS I Courtesy of Chandler Dang
DESIGN I Karen Franz

> "WXJM is an excellent source to find music you didn't even know you liked."

READERS ON A ROLL

Library on wheels helps local families

While many children grew up waiting to hear the upbeat jingle of the ice cream truck, in several neighborhoods across Rockingham and Page counties, children instead eagerly anticipated the weekly arrival of the Gus Bus, a traveling library on wheels.

This "Reading Road Show" was established in 2003 to provide local families with access to books, one-on-one tutoring, fun after-school activities and even weekly food bags that the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank supplied.

Each semester, many students volunteered with the program, helping with everything from reading with kids on the bus and offering free in-home tutoring services to preparing food bags for families in need.

Haley Springer, the program coordinator for the Gus Bus, emphasized the program's larger impact on children in the area.

"There are certain families in the community who, you know, don't have the privileges and resources that I enjoy, [and] getting to a library can be really hard," Springer said. "There might be barriers, like not having transportation. People might feel intimidated going into a library and applying for a library card for various reasons."

Two official Gus Buses traveled around the counties each week, both fully furnished with couches, shelves, activity tables and WiFi, allowing children the opportunity to check out books and take them home without having to leave their neighborhoods.

"[Children] can get on the bus, [and] they get story time, [and] they get some one-on-one reading time with our great JMU volunteers," Springer said. "They get to participate in a craft or activity that kind of builds on the story that was just read, and then at the end of the day, they can check out library books to take home and read with their parents [and] with their family members."

Bria Washington, a junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major, began volunteering with the Gus Bus in the fall of 2015.

"Some of the [same] kids come every week," Washington said. "It's really sweet, and they have big smiles on their faces when they get on the bus. Some kids don't like to read, [but] then when they come on the bus they can play games and bring a book home, and reading becomes fun for them."

> "With the help of staff members and student volunteers, reading and learning became exciting and fun."

The main mission of the Gus Bus was to motivate children to start reading "early and often," especially those who had difficulty in school or were new to English. Annual reports showed that children who took part in the "Reading Road Show" scored better in school and were much more confident in their abilities.

With the help of staff members and student volunteers, reading and learning became exciting and fun, causing these kids to come running toward the bus every week with bright smiles on their faces and favorite books in hand.

[illegible] | Michelle Criqui
[illegible] | Courtesy of The Breeze and JMU Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services
[illegible] | Alexandra Orndahl







Top: Senior Alana Misiura reads with a local elementary schooler on the Gus Bus. Many JMU students volunteered to help children in Harrisonburg and Page County with their studies.
Bottom left: The inside of the Gus Bus stands ready for students to learn. Children could receive tutoring both on the bus and in their homes.
Bottom right: The library on wheels travels locally in an effort to make learning enjoyable for children in the area. Many kids returned to the bus week after week to improve their reading skills and confidence.

CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT

Campus stirs at the sight of high waters

On a rainy day in late September, record-breaking flooding swamped JMU's campus and the surrounding community.

"The football fields were under water, the tunnel was completely under water, East Campus was soaked and then it drained overnight," senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Brooke Gamble said.

As water levels rose, Madison Alerts were sent out to students via text message and email, notifying them that certain areas on campus were closed, along with major off-campus roads like Reservoir Street. Godwin Transit Center and Duke Dog Alley were two areas on campus that closed down after being hit with a tremendous amount of water. These areas were subject to damage, as students such as junior biology major Kristen Zielinski witnessed firsthand at Duke Dog Alley.

As a swimmer for the university, Zielinski had just finished her afternoon practice when she received the alert. The flooding directly hit her car, which was parked in the C9 lot next to Duke Dog Alley.

"I guess it happened all of a sudden because when I came out [of practice], it was around 5 o'clock, and it was, like, completely flooded, like water was rushing in," Zielinski said.

Zielinski's car sat in six inches of rain, but compared to her teammates' vehicles, Zielinski seemed to have lucked out. She recounted that those parked near her had "dents and dinks" on their cars, and one teammate even had a railroad part stuck in between her tires.

Although students like Zielinski experienced the negative impact of the flood, others, like Gamble, had a different side of the story to tell. Many capitalized on this experience and made the most of the situation.

"Some people were canoeing through [Godwin]," said Gamble.

Gamble, however, decided to swim laps through the rushing currents of the Alley. She had been training for a half marathon and planned to swim at UREC that day. Because of the storm, the gym was closed and Gamble lightheartedly decided, "Okay, I'm just [going to] swim through the tunnel."

Wearing a one-piece swimsuit and goggles, Gamble did just that and was videotaped by multiple strangers. Gamble's stunt ended up on Twitter, attracted over 100,000 views on Vine and was even featured on ABC News.

"I was on national news," Gamble said. "That's a whole new bucket list [item]. Not a lot of people can say they swam through Duke Dog Alley."

This destructive force's timing seemed to be exact. However, the unprecedented flooding did not seem to alter Zielinski's day by much.

"I think if [the flood] would've been 30 minutes earlier, it would've affected our practice schedule," said Zielinski.

Gamble found the flood to be unexpectedly convenient, as she was already prepared to go swimming.

"I was just going to swim laps," Gamble said. "We dressed appropriately."

Whether it was inconvenient or a bucket-list moment, the 2015 flood caught attention all over Harrisonburg and throughout the nation.

| Christiana Freitag
| Courtesy of The Breeze
| Breanna Young



Water rushes toward Bridgeforth Stadium. Many students took advantage of the high waters on campus by playing in the temporary rivers.





Above right: The creek by Hillside Field runs dangeriously high. JMU had not flooded to this extent since 1985.
Below right: Mr. Chips becomes a temporary waterfront property as high waters flow through campus in the fall of 2015. The convenience store experienced flooding inside the building after the rain had stopped.

FASHION FORWARD IN FALL

Students reveal their cool-weather wear

It was the time of year again when the leaves changed colors, the air got crisp and fall fashion on campus was in full swing. Whether lounging on the Quad, picking up a Starbucks latte or running to class, many kept up with the current styles and commercial fashion trends. The latest chic outfits seen in magazines and on social media sites like Pinterest and Instagram influenced campus fashion.

Senior communication studies major Kaitlyn Kirwin, dressed in a thickly knitted, oversized sweater matched with black leggings and Frye boots, gave input about the most popular wear on campus during the colder seasons.

"Most people at JMU are stylish when they want to be," Kirwin said.

Students seemed to develop personal style and pull off fads throughout campus.

"The top five trends I've seen this year would definitely be white Converse, fur vests, floppy hats, boyfriend jeans and the Bohemian, Free People style," Kirwin said.

Although some men at JMU did not seem as enthusiastic about discussing fall trends, many of them were just as well dressed. Several male students sported khaki pants paired with sweaters or pressed button-down shirts and suede Chukka boots to stay warm from the autumn chill.

Much of JMU's student body seemed to have the ability to keep up with current trends while managing busy academic and social calendars.

"I like how versatile fall fashion is," Kimia Favagehi, a junior communications major, said. " … I can wear things that I feel comfortable in but still be fashionable."

Students described how looking well dressed while still feeling snug seemed to be a necessity as a college student.

"I love wearing a sweater and boots in the fall," Erin Donovan, a junior integrated science and technology major, said. "You can look really cute but still be comfortable."

By dressing fashionably and feeling confident in their choices of dress, many students felt they were able to conquer any type of school day.

WORDS | Julianne Cavanaugh
PHOTOS | Carley Toms
DESIGN | Breanna Young

Above left: Freshman Derek Elliott enjoys a crisp autumn day. In 2015, sweaters paired with khakis were a staple of male fall fashion.
Below left: Freshmen Peyton Burns (left) and Abigail Koenig (right) share a laugh as leaves fall. Colder weather meant fall fashion had arrived on campus.

Above right: Demonstrating her fall fashion sense, freshman Anne Earley poses on the Quad. Areas surrounding the Quad provided scenic backdrops for fashion photos.
Below right: Standing in the autumn breeze, freshman Samantha Zakrzewski wears a cozy sweater and scarf. The fall season ushered in sweater weather for many students.

FALL-ING FOR THE VALLEY

Locals create a memorable experience for students and visitors

WORDS I Christiana Freitag
PHOTOS I Jillian Wright
DESIGN I Leah Jacobs

Back Home on the Farm directs attendees to different attractions on the property. The farm created a homespun atmosphere for the guests.

As the days get colder, the color of the corn stalks start to change, signifying that fall is jus around the corner. Many locals and students appreciated that Harrisonburg offered fall activities such as pumpkin picking.

As the school year began, the hills surrounding Harrisonburg began to fill with various shades of red, orange and yellow, ushering autumn into the valley. There was no shortage of activities for students and local families to participate in during this time, with locations such as Back Home on the Farm, Fear Forest and Nightmare at UREC adding some spice to the Harrisonburg holiday season.

In 2015, senior history major Emily Nelson dressed up as a pineapple for Halloween because it was her favorite fruit, but she wasn't expecting everyone else to be dressed up as fruit as well.

"I was actually really shocked that so many people were fruit because I thought I was so smart by finding this picture on Pinterest," Nelson said. "But I was so wrong."

Lillie Spivey, a freshman who had not yet declared a major, decided to spend her first fall in Harrisonburg with her club swim team at Fear Forest. The suspense of walking through the different houses was Spivey's favorite part.

"My heart was pounding the entire time," Spivey said. "It was such a good adrenaline rush."

Fear Forest wasn't the only way to get a thrill in Harrisonburg that fall. In 2015, the annual Nightmare at UREC took place again with a new attraction.

"About 10 UREC staff members and students started planning this event in September [2015]," said Jonathan Corum, the coordinator of intramural sports and special events. "We had about 300-350 [participants] attend this event."

In previous years, students went through a haunted house that had seven different themed houses, but this year, it didn't end there. Students then went into the "Escape Room."

When students entered this room, they got locked in and had to read questions off papers on the walls. The correct numerical answers unlocked the door at the end of the hall. In the next room waited an actor dressed as a clown who honked his horn and banged on the floor with a hockey stick to scare his "victims."

Junior sports and recreation management major Ryan Nickel had the privilege to portray this clown.

"As the victims would crowd around the door to get out, I would rear back and scream, putting more pressure on their situation of solving the coded door," Nickel said.

For those who didn't like to be scared, Back Home on the Farm was a popular Harrisonburg attraction. Here, students could pick pumpkins and enjoy the beautiful fall weather and scenery.

For junior nursing major Morgan Flanagan, going to Back Home on the Farm was a way to take a break from the hectic college lifestyle.

"Picking pumpkins made me feel like a kid again and took me back to my carefree childhood days," Flanagan said. "I really like to take in the scenery in the fall. At home, the scenery isn't nearly as beautiful. Crunching leaves on the way to classes is my favorite."

While tradition wasn't for some students, it was for junior health science major Emily Campbell. After living in the Shenandoah Valley all her life, she began the tradition of going to a nearby festival, Dayton Days, where there was plenty of food and crafts.

"Fall isn't just about all the activities," Campbell said. "It's about harvesting a community together for one last 'hoorah' before winter sets in."

No matter which activities students chose, the fall season brought fun and beauty to the Harrisonburg community.



Back Home on the Farm offers jams for vistors to purchase. Many regarded the homemade jam as tasty and sweet.

SPICE UP THE SEASON

Pumpkin spice continues to top all flavors

Fall in the Shenandoah Valley was not only a season for pumpkin picking, but also for a hallmark fall flavor: pumpkin spice. With the crunch of autumn leaves on the ground and warm mugs in hand, this flavor allowed many coffee fanatics quench their thirst with the drink that tasted like "fall in a cup."

"People ask for [Pumpkin Spiced Lattes] all the time, regardless of the season. It's like crack to them," junior sociology major Kevin DiRocco said.

DiRocco worked as a barista at his hometown Starbucks before coming to JMU.

But what really was pumpkin spice? Within the past few years, the infusion of fall spice flavors had become a seasonal phenomenon. Pumpkin spice became a fad in social media and was the "go-to" choice of latte for the fall season.

Just about everyone picked up on the PSL trend. Pumpkin Spice M&M's, Pumpkin Spice Hershey's Kisses, Planters Pumpkin Spice Almonds, Kellogg's Pumpkin Spice Eggo Seasons waffles and many other companies participated in the fad. Beyond tasty treats and drinks, companies such as World Market produced skin care products that took advantage of this captivating smell.

Twitter was a significant contributor in labeling the kind of person often seen drinking a PSL. Many millennials considered these people to be "basic." According to the social media site, this term described people such as young women dressed in sweaters with leggings and boots, carrying a Starbucks coffee cup filled with a Pumpkin Spice Latte.

"During the time it's available, almost every other order was a Pumpkin Spice Latte," DiRocco said.

Starbucks introduced the Pumpkin Spice Latte in 2003, after success with seasonal flavors such as eggnog and peppermint. The flavor included cinnamon, nutmeg and clove spices, steamed milk, espresso, and a pumpkin spice topping.

"When it finally comes back out, I would have to say that I drink it six out of the seven days of the week," senior psychology major Rachel Sonnenberg said. "I really like the taste, and it makes me feel like I'm celebrating the season. But fall is probably my favorite time of the year."

Some, however, did not understand all the hype.

Jared Farnsworth, a senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major, preferred his coffee without the flavor. Farnsworth had tried the pumpkin spice latte a few times but could not get his taste buds to willingly acquire the taste.

"Usually [the PSL] is super sweet, and it kind of dilutes the flavor of coffee, [a flavor that] I love," Farnsworth said.

Farnsworth also mentioned social media's influence on the drink's popularity.

"I thought I liked it after the first time I tried it, because all I had seen [on social media] was everyone saying how good it was," Farnsworth said. "The few times I got it after that, I couldn't remember what I had liked about it."

Some people believed the idea of pumpkin spice had reached its limit. On Sept. 15, 2015, Greg T. of the "Elvis Duran and the Morning" radio show used a segment called the "Hot Button" to rant about pumpkin spice and its supporters. During the program, Greg T. claimed that pumpkin spice lovers were all "frigging weird," and that they did not actually love pumpkin spice, but rather were "followers" because they thought it was cool.

Others, such as sophomore marketing major Joao Versos, saw great value in the drink.

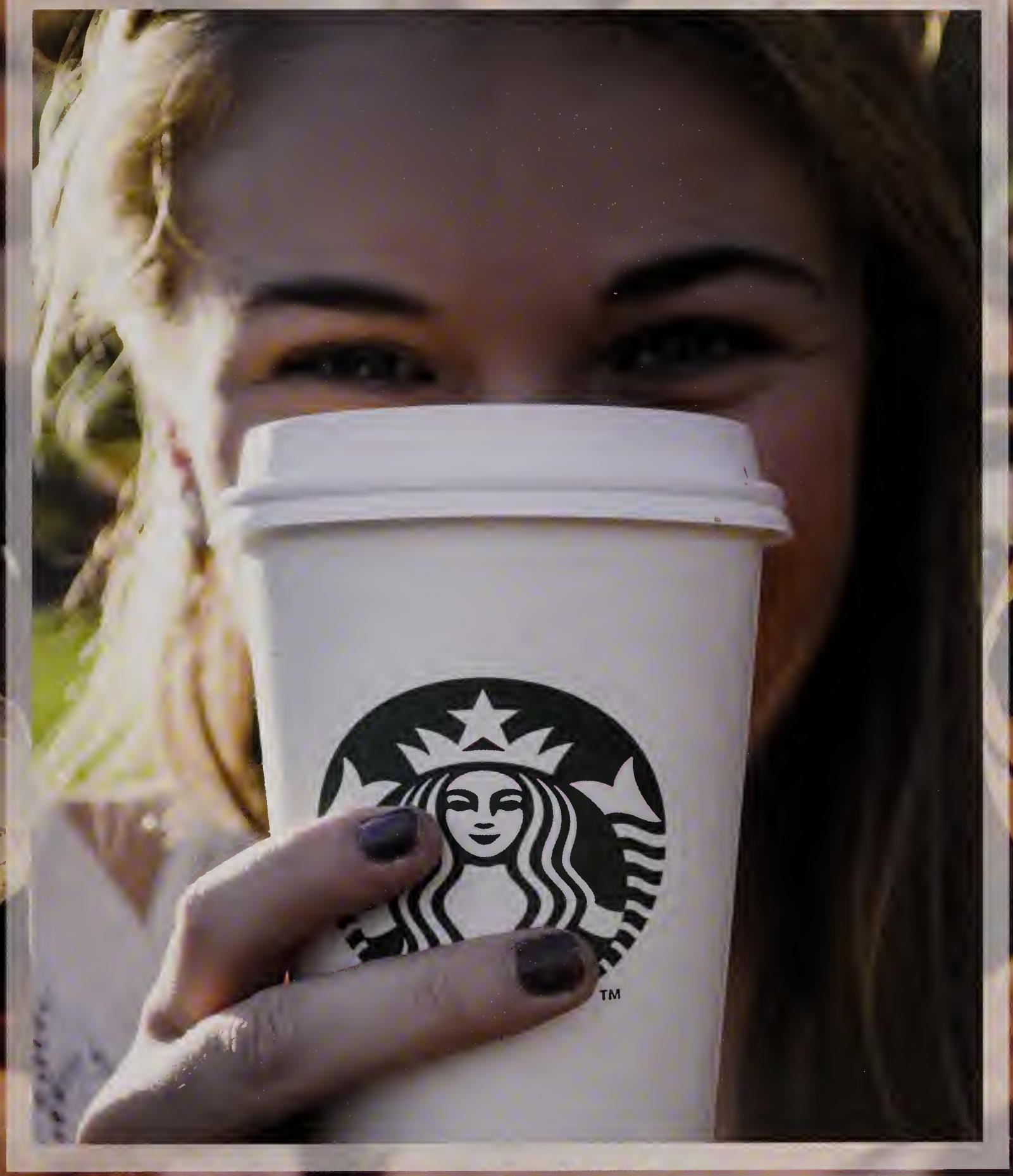
"I don't think a flavor can go too far," Versos said. "It's the same as having 'pine needle,' or 'summer breeze,' or a floral scent."

Trends changed like the seasons. One day something was hot, the next day it was not — which raised a question: Was pumpkin spice just a trend, or was it here to stay?

[redacted] | Steven Klein

[redacted] | Carley Toms

With autumn in full swing, fallen leaves bedeck the ground of [illegible]. Due to warm weather, the season invited students to participate [illegible]



Freshman Peyton Burns cozies up next to her Pumpkin Spice Latte. Throughout the school day, many students carried coffee with them to class.

Left: Junior Rashard Davis catches a pass. The team began the 2015 season with a 7-0 record.
Right: JMU fans cheer and throw streamers during the 2015 homecoming football game. JMU played against the University of Richmond during this game.

COMING HOME

Alumni return for weekend celebration



Once word spread on campus that ESPN's College GameDay was coming to JMU in 2015, the university prepared for an experience of a lifetime. JMU even built an access route so that the GameDay trucks could easily enter the Quad. The Dukes' fan base sported purple and gold at homecoming events GameDay inspired, which included a pep rally held on the Thursday night before the weeekend specifically to grab ESPN's attention.

JMU coordinated homecoming events during the entire week leading up to Saturday. Events included a D-Hall legacy dinner, an a cappella concert featuring all of JMU's student groups, and a JMU Duke Club food and beverage tasting on Zane Showker Field.

The night before homecoming weekend, a crowd of students camped out on the Quad surrounded by GameDay trucks.

When the sun set on JMU's beautiful bluestone architecture, many students never slept, as they were amped and ready to earn their four seconds of fame as part of the GameDay scene.

On the morning of Oct. 24, 2015, students, family and friends were dressed in purple attire and held signs that were meant to taunt the University of Richmond. The Quad became an exciting spectacle, especially for those who had never before walked onto JMU's campus.

The football team received abundant attention during the 2015 season, as they were 7-0 before the Richmond game. ESPN's College GameDay broadcast live on campus as the historic Wilson Hall stood in the background.

After GameDay, many alumni and students gathered in the parking lots throughout campus to tailgate before heading over to the football field. Students had the opportunity to reconnect with friends who had graduated, while introducing family members to JMU's spirited football scene.

Although the 2015 homecoming game led to a disappointing loss against the Richmond Spiders, the weekend's festivities were nothing short of epic.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny and Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | Courtesy of The Breeze and Chase Maszle
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens

J-M-BOO

Campus turns creepy on All Hallows' Eve

As the yellow moon rose above the night sky, a witch's laughter cackled through the quiet darkness. A werewolf howled, and the skeletons rattled their bones at the signal that Halloween had arrived. Celebrating the spooky holiday was a tradition for many members of the JMU community.

During the week before Halloween, sororities and fraternities on Greek Row held trick or treating for local Harrisonburg families. Children also participated in Halloween-style arts and crafts, which they carried around in their candy buckets.

Sophomore engineering major Myles Fogleman enjoyed spending the holiday at JMU.

"It's fun to dress up," Fogleman said. "I always like doing something goofy."

Another popular Halloween activity was experiencing the haunted woods at Fear Forest, which was full of spooks and scares around every turn. When participants arrived, they climbed onto a hayride toward the forest, where actors portraying chainsaw-wielding maniacs tried to scare them. Then the participants entered a mile-long, dark wooded trail filled with their greatest fears.

In 2015, Fear Forest added an attraction called Fear Crops, a laser tag experience where guests battled actors dressed as zombies in the middle of a cornfield. Equipped with laser guns, the zombies came out of the crops to take on the guests.

For students who did not wish to leave the comfort of their rooms, some dorms at JMU held Halloween celebrations of their own. Residential advisers in the Apartments on Grace Street held reverse trick or treating on Halloween night, handing out free candy to residents. In addition, the Community Activities Board members at the Apartments on Grace Street hosted a Halloween party in the main lobby. There was food, music and contests to determine best costume and best decorated room.

Some students chose to spend time with friends on Halloween or go home for the weekend.

Carly Mampe, a freshman media arts and design major, stayed at JMU for the weekend.

"It was really fun," Mampe said. "I just got to hang out with a whole bunch of friends from my dorm, and we just, like, went around and took pictures and hung out with different groups of friends."

Even though students celebrated Halloween in many different ways, the fun and spooky holiday seemed to offer something to everyone.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS AND DESIGN | Carley Toms



A pumpkin is nestled within autumn leaves. Many residences in the Harrisonburg area put up décor to celebrate this festive holiday.

St. Albans Sanatorium in Radford, Virginia, provides a paranormal experience for the ghost hunters club. Members of the organization used specialized equipment to detect the presence of spirits.

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Student club investigates the paranormal across Virginia

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Allison Lindsey
DESIGN | Carley Toms

On Oct. 24, 2012, senior geology major Thomas Harbour and several other students in his year founded the JMU Ghost Hunters Club. Just like on the television show "Ghost Hunters," the organization scientifically collected evidence through recorders, cameras, Electromagnetic Field detectors, K2 devices and flashlights to prove or disprove the paranormal.

Katie Sides, a senior English major and the treasurer of the organization, described one of the methods that the investigators used to communicate with these apparitions.

"We'll leave [a flashlight] on in the middle of the room and put a recorder and an EMF detector next to it," Sides said. "We'll just ask questions to any spirits in the area, and they will turn the flashlight on and off in response to questions."

While using this equipment, the club traveled all throughout the Harrisonburg area and the Commonwealth of Virginia, searching for the paranormal. Some of the places they visited included the Ferry Plantation in Virginia Beach, the Exchange Hotel in Gordonsville, Virginia, and even the Quilt Museum in downtown Harrisonburg.

The club also got the chance to visit Montpelier Hall on campus, where the old Rockingham Memorial Hospital once stood.

According to Chelsey Adams, a senior political science major and the president of the organization, the university gave the hunters permission to investigate the building before it was torn down.

Adams stated that she received the clearest Electronic Voice Phenomena reading the club had ever gotten in this supposedly haunted hall.

"It was me and another exec member," Adams said. "As we're walking down the hallway, we're just kinda talking about the experience, and we [hear] a voice that goes over top of both of ours that says something [to] the extent of … 'I just needed to cry, I just needed to pray.' It was weird."

The Ghost Hunters Club was a relatively new organization on campus, bringing members together through their shared interest in investigating paranormal hauntings. The club used tools that were similar to the equipment used on the actual television show. When they weren't traveling to different places across Virginia to find evidence of the paranormal, the club held weekly meetings in which the hunters told ghost stories, played games and just hung out.

"It's a genuine group of people," Sides said. "It's a really great way to meet genuine friends who are really like you."

Whenever there was something strange in neighborhood, students knew just who they were going to call: the JMU ghost hunters.

FAREWELL, FOR NOW

Campus says goodbye to beloved dining hall

On June 15, 1964, a new form of architecture that was distinct from the traditional Bluestone style opened its doors to hungry students, faculty and friends of the university. Formally named Gibbons Hall, students eventually nicknamed this new structure "D-Hall." But more than 50 years later, the university planned to tear down this historic dining facility at the conclusion of the spring 2016 semester.

Although this popular buffet-style dining hall was set to leave, a new one would take its place in the fall of 2018. Until then, dining services drew up plans to construct a temporary dining facility, aptly named D-Hub, in the R1 parking lot.

Angela Ritchie, the marketing manager of dining services, calmed students' fears about the temporary dining facility in an email interview.

"Our students will still get to enjoy all their favorites — pizza, pasta, burgers, the entrée station, salad bar, deli and of course, desserts," Ritchie said. "We will continue to offer vegetarian, vegan and options made from ingredients not containing gluten … [and] favorites like grilled cheese, tomato soup and Buffalo Mash."

She also mentioned that other student favorites, such as Chick-fil-A, would temporarily relocate to another pop-up dining facility behind Moody Hall.

"Next to [Chick-fil-A] will be 'Food Truck Hub,' where we will park the Starbucks truck and two other food trucks," Ritchie said.

For those who would miss D-Hall, the university decided to sell bricks from the old building. The profit from selling these bricks would be put toward scholarships for incoming students.

"That scholarship campaign will be launched during [the] spring [2016] semester as our way of 'Celebrating the Past…Continuing the Legacy'," Ritchie said.

As the news spread about the plan to demolish D-Hall, students quickly developed their own opinions on the matter.

"I like D-Hall, but I think that [the reconstruction] will be good because it's [kind of] outdated," freshman computer science major Joy Williams said. "I am [sad] because I know there's like been a lot of memories for people. They had a recent thing where you wrote the memories out on a sidewalk in chalk, but I don't know, I think improvement is good."

Some students and alumni even created a Facebook group titled "Save D-Hall at JMU," where they expressed their concerns about the change. This page protested the demolition of D-Hall and tried to keep the old building as it was. Despite these efforts, JMU put their plans in motion.

For years, D-Hall serviced hungry crowds. In spite of this change, D-Hall would forever be a part of JMU's history.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS | Jillian Wright
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl



D-Hall provides a variety of balanced options to promote a healthy lifestyle for students. Many were disappointed to say goodbye to the dining hall.





Above: Students choose from many different types of food at D-Hall. Dining services created meals that catered to a wide range of palates.



Above: A danger sign hangs on the outside of the construction site, warning passersby to stay out. The workers used heavy machinery to make way for the new dining facility.

Below: Excavators stand by, waiting to break ground on the R1 parking lot. The university closed half of the R1 parking lot to accomodate the building of D-Hub.



REMEMBER, HONOR AND RESPECT

Students decorate the Quad to honor veterans

Veterans Day commemorated American soldiers who put their lives on the line to serve and protect the "land of the free." On Nov. 11, 2015, JMU recognized this holiday in a special way: by planting 2,400 flags on and around the Quad, honoring the selfless service of American veterans.

Members of the Student Veterans Association proposed this plan under the leadership of senior intelligence analysis major Karl Beckett, the president of the organization. Beckett pitched the idea to JMU's Veteran Scholars Task Force. This task force, composed of over 30 faculty members and administrators, aided Beckett with the logistics of the idea, such as whom the flags should symbolize.

"[The task force] said it was a fantastic idea and said that [it was] not just SVA's responsibility, [but] a school responsibility," junior psychology major Clinton Roberts, the SVA's public affairs officer and activities coordinator, said.

Afterward, Beckett met with President Alger, who agreed that JMU should be a more veteran-friendly community.

The SVA believed placing flags around Main Campus, especially on the Quad, would not only honor veterans, but would also show the Harrisonburg community the university's commitment to respecting student veterans.

"It will bridge the gap between some of the veteran population and the general JMU student population," Roberts, a transfer student from Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, Virginia, said.

Roberts saw the strides JMU took for Veterans Day as a major accomplishment. As Roberts recalled, Veterans Day at Blue Ridge had been just a regular day of classes, no different than any other day.

This commemoration was as much about collaboration with others as it was about the SVA. Many members of JMU's Military and Operational Intelligence Association and the Reserve Officers' Training Corps were eager to get involved. Along with them, two women from the Office of Registrar, students in the intelligence analysis major with Beckett and even employees from the Pale Fire Brewing Company in downtown Harrisonburg assisted the association in planting the flags around Main Campus.

"We have members really from all over — even people who are not in JMU that are part of the [Harrisonburg] community — that are excited to participate," Beckett said.

The efforts made for the 2015 Veterans Day seemed to be successful in harmonizing the JMU community when it came to the importance of the military. The SVA was hopeful that planting flags on campus would become a tradition for Veterans Day, and hopefully Memorial Day, for years to come.

"Forcewide, [there is a motto]: 'Leave it better than you found it,'" Beckett said. "I feel like we have done that here."

WORDS | Christiana Freitag
PHOTOS | Jillian Wright
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer

Red, white and blue fills the Quad, symbolizing the sacrifices of American veterans. Many JMU students, faculty and staff have served in various branches of the military.



Senior Andre Racanelli admires the thousands of flags adorning the Quad on Veterans Day. The SVA planted these flags to acknowledge and honor American veterans.

Students and faculty stand together to show support for the University of Missouri. The march gained participants as it moved across campus.



MARCH FOR MIZZOU

JMU students cross campus to stand with the University of Missouri

On Nov. 13, 2015, a large group of students and faculty marched from Festival Lawn to the Quad in a silent protest. With their heads held high and signs promoting peace in their hands, the protesters, President Alger included, occupied the Wilson Hall steps in silence. On that day, members of the JMU community showed their support for the black students and faculty at the University of Missouri.

Two days prior to the JMU March for Mizzou, members of the University of Missiouri community experienced discrimination and injustice that made them feel too unsafe to attend classes. In response, Mizzou students and faculty protested this racial inequality, demanding change. This set off a chain reaction across the country, resulting in college students forming their own protests in support of racial equality and the Mizzou community.

Eunique Hamilton, a senior hospitality management major and the founder of the JMU March for Mizzou, stated in an email interview why she, along with co-founder and junior communications studies major Ashley Short, organized the protest.

"I think my civic responsibility kind of kicked in. I was tired of just talking about what's going on in the community. It's not hard to get a conversation started so I knew all we had to do was get something started," Hamiton said. "Our little black boys and girls [are] being killed and tossed aside as if they [don't] matter. Similar disregard of racial insensitivity has been displayed at Mizzou, which has inspired me to put a call of action to my fellow Dukes."

Recognizing that there was a need for change, Hamilton and Short took the initiative to put the event together.

"Instead of waiting for another organization or group to do it, we did it ourselves and organized it," Short said in an email interview.

Due to these efforts, many students and faculty members joined the cause.

"There was a point during the march where we were crossing the bridge by ISAT and the Village and when I looked back, so many students were crossing the street behind us," Short said. "I didn't realize how many people were marching with us until then. Even people that weren't in the march during the beginning just started to join in. That made it genuine and organic."

In the end, the march appeared to leave a lasting impact on the JMU community, lending a voice to the minority groups on campus.

"The minority students on JMU's campus don't really have a voice, so it was important for us to realize [that] we can express our passions and receive really positive feedback from our peers and administration," Hamilton said.

On that brisk November day, JMU stood in solidarity with the University of Missouri in response to these acts of discrimination, which seemed to prove that, together, they could fight to overcome racial injustice.

WORDS | Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS | Courtesy of The Breeze
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao



Students march together on East Campus. The March for Mizzou sought to raise awareness for perpetual discrimination.

> “There was a point during the march where we were crossing the bridge by ISAT and the Village and when I looked back, so many students were crossing the street behind us.”

Students stand close and hold signs calling for equality. Racial injustice deeply troubled many in the JMU community.



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

JMU students hold vigil after terrorist attacks in France

WORDS | Christiana Frietag
PHOTOS | Courtesy of The Breeze
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs



During a dark week of violent extremism all over the world, many JMU students were able to find a glimpse of light. In mid-November 2015, terrorist organizations inflicted violence on Paris and Beirut, as well as other locations worldwide. In response, on Nov. 14, the university discovered ways to counter this violence with signs of peace. Multiple student groups partnered to organize a candlelight vigil for the victims of these attacks.

Many contributors to this event were members of a social campaign at JMU called Momentum. The White House selected JMU to participate in a global initiative competition called Peer to Peer: Challenging Extremism. JMU's members created Momentum as their platform to counter extremism with the support of Facebook. With funds from the Department of State and a for-profit company called Adventure Partners, each university involved received $2,000 to create its own initiative to counter extremists via social media.

"[Momentum] is an online pledge to engage in random acts of kindness," Natasha Yaqub, a senior international affairs major and the director of Momentum, said. "Most of the people that ISIS [is] able to recruit are those isolated from their community. Random acts of kindness can create a ripple effect ... so eventually these [acts] would reach someone who might have been prone to becoming isolated and are now less susceptible to becoming radicalized."

With this mission, Yaqub thought it was necessary for Momentum to respond to the November terrorist attacks in a constructive manner. Within five hours of the news breaking about the Paris attacks, Momentum and other JMU students gathered to organize this tribute.

The event planners made certain to remember not only victims in Paris, but also those in Beriut and Baghdad. To inform the public about the attacks, the team actively angled the vigil to include mourning all victims of extremism.

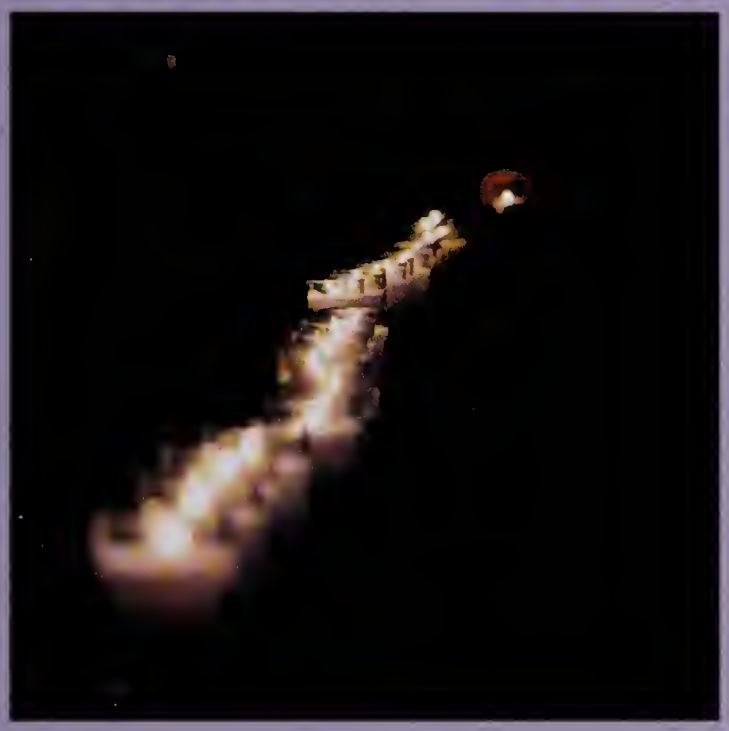
"This should be more of a theme of extremism in general and not just target it toward a specific country," Katrina Hatahet, a junior international affairs and Momentum member, said. "That is just going to perpetuate the problem, to just talk about France when these [violent acts] are happening all over the world."

Over 100 people came together on the Wilson Hall steps to show their respect for the victims. Each person received a candle while the coordinators spoke about love and kindness as a way to counter extremism. Although the theme of the event aligned with Momentum's mission, members were careful not to mention the initiative directly, so as to avoid diverting attention away from the vigil itself.

Along with the message of inclusiveness, the event organizers sought to educate the public on a few misconceptions regarding race and terrorism. Yaqub spoke to the crowd about each attack and gave statistics about the causalities from that week, while Hatahet informed the group about the spread of Islamophobia and how such attitudes could negatively impact the Syrian refugee crisis.

"I hope the speech enlightened people to [Momentum's] cause because I know there are so many misconceptions about these attacks being Islamic-related," said Hatahet. "I talked about ISIS actually being condemned by Islam and how a lot of people see it as not being representative of Islam at all."

The event closed with the crowd joining together to sing the closing song, "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from the French musical "Les Misérables." The vigil aimed to prove that whether near or far, the world suffers and stands together.



Lit candles serve as a memorial for the lives lost in the terrorist attacks. The JMU community gathered together at Wilson Hall to honor those affected by this tragedy.







Not long after the terrorist attacks transpired, community members gathered on the Wilson steps for a candlelight vigil. JMU stood in solidarity with France, and other affected nations during this tragic time.

LOCALLY GROWN GOODNESS

Downtown farmers market continues to amaze its customers

WORDS | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | Hannah Adams
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer



Chattering and laughter set to the backdrop of vibrant, locally grown produce and handcrafted goods electrified the Harrisonburg Farmers Market. Located at Turner Pavilion on South Liberty Street throughout the year, the farmers market had been seen as a favorite activity in the town of Harrisonburg for decades. At the market, patrons engaged with the local community while wrapped in the harmonious aromas of fresh flowers and hot coffee.

Beyond its immediate services, many saw the farmers market as a more personal way to purchase goods. The market offered the opportunity for its customers to converse directly with the vendors who had grown, crafted or baked the goods that were on sale, a communal aspect that seemed to typify the operation.

One such vendor was Heather Benin, who sold pastries, fruit smoothies and espresso drinks at her booth, Ella Cakes and Coffee. Benin believed that the market was more than just an event or a location, but served a larger purpose.

"Buying local helps our earth, and so I believe that it would be wonderful if we could buy more [locally] than we buy at grocery stores," Benin said. "And, plus, it's a community event. People get out, and they see friends and they talk, kids play. It's nice."

Local to Harrisonburg, Benin was able to see the market's simultaneous evolution and constancy throughout its many years in the community.

"When I was a little kid, my dad helped one of the farmers here, and he brought me to the market," Benin said. "That's back when it was under the Water Street garage there. And that farmer [who] my dad helped is still here today. So it's [kind of] neat to see that it's been around so long."

Although the Harrisonburg Farmers Market had a presence in downtown Harrisonburg for years, Reber Cribb, the operations manager of the market, noticed that JMU students had begun to display greater interest in farm-to-table shopping.

"It seems like as the years go by, JMU is becoming more and more influential at the market," Cribb said. "I'm noticing a lot of JMU students down here on Saturdays, and personally, I love it."

Cribb noted how the market served not only the JMU student body, but the larger Harrisonburg community, as well.

"It's an outlet for low-income people to eat healthy," Cribb said. "And I think that benefits them, their families and the surrounding community."

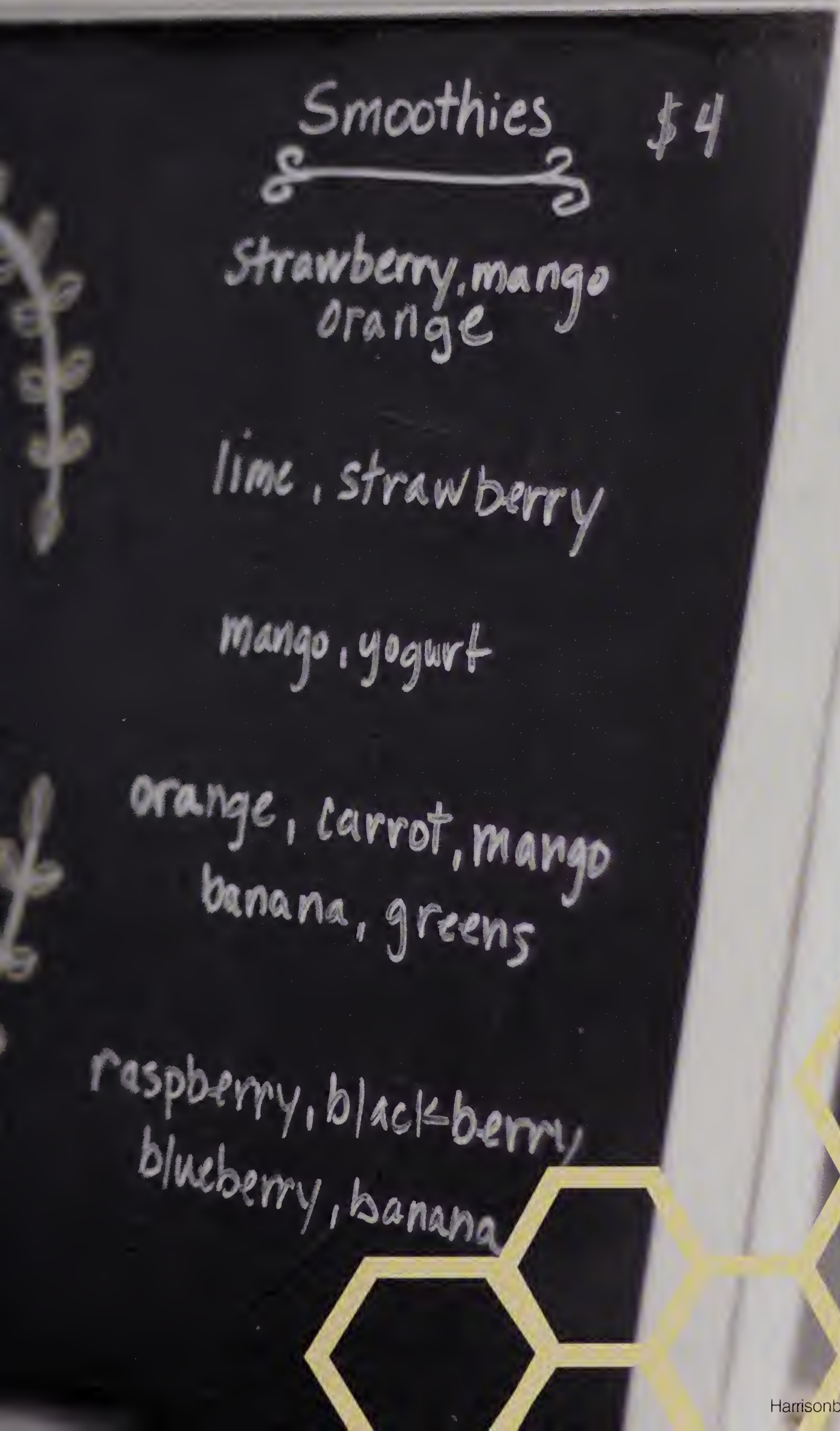
Some students consistently bought their produce and other goods from the farmers market, making weekly trips in an effort to contribute to the local economy. Others believed the market was simply a way to experience the long-standing spirit of downtown Harrisonburg.

Joshua Dunn, a senior anthropology major, noticed that the farmers market had an atmosphere unlike any other downtown venue.

"It's really enjoyable, [and] it's really relaxing," Dunn said. "[The market offers] some good food, good doughnuts, good breakfast food [and] good coffee."

The Harrisonburg Farmers Market embodied JMU's value of tradition and community engagement but also reminded students that Harrisonburg was more than just the university. The farmers market was a testament to students and locals that in a world hungry for progress and change, tradition remained the lifeblood of community.

Many local vendors sold a variety of goods at the market.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Student performance groups entertain and raise money for charity

WORDS | Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS | Jillian Wright
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer



The Overtones perform in Wilson Hall Auditorium for Operation Santa Claus. Student Ambassadors sponsored the show to raise money for foster children in the area.

Senior and Exit 245 member Samuel Valentine performs "All I Want For Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey. This a capella group was one of many to perform during the charity event.

Every December, there was one event that had the ability to bring student organizations such as a cappella, dance and sketch comedy groups under one roof. Since the program began in 1999, Operation Santa Claus' mission had been not only to spread holiday cheer among students, faculty and staff, but also to give back to the Harrisonburg community by raising money for charity.

In 2015, the charity chosen was Harrisonburg's Big Brothers Big Sisters, and with the help of donations from hundreds of spectators, OSC raised $1,873 to benefit children and families.

Alexis Javay Frye, a senior media arts and design and hospitality management double major, served as the Student Ambassadors' advertising chair for the program in 2015.

"It was great because so many families came with their children who are part of Big Brothers Big Sisters," Frye said. "So you actually get to see kids who are going to benefit from the money we raise."

JMU's Student Ambassadors have organized OSC since its began, selecting a theme and creating skits to act out in between each performance. In 2015, the theme was "A Miracle on South Main Street," a parody of the classic holiday film, "A Miracle on 34th Street."

Throughout the show, student actors carried out this theme by attempting to gain back their holiday and school spirit, some of which was lost during finals week. Special appearances contributed to this performance, including the Duke Dog and even the vice president of student affairs, Dr. Mark Warner, who played a lawyer in the skit's final scene.

"Dr. Warner was probably [my] favorite part," Frye said. "We asked him if he would be in it, but we hadn't given him much time to learn the lines or anything, and he just came in and killed it. Dr. Warner just loves JMU so much, so it was just so great that he got to be a part of it."

Operation Santa Claus took place in Wilson Hall on Dec. 8, 2015. The lineup consisted of various musical and comedic acts, giving audience members a chance to experience the full effect of the talent showcased at JMU.

Sketch comedy groups New and Improv'd and Maddy Night Live got the crowd laughing during their improv routines and sketches, including one about a mall Santa Claus support group. Dance organizations, such as the Mozaic Dance Team and Madison Dance, demonstrated their skills using a wide array of music, resulting in uproarious applause from the crowd at particularly striking moments.

Most of JMU's a cappella groups also volunteered their talent during this night of fundraising and entertainment, showcasing everything from classic holiday tunes to hit singles, such as Low Key's cover of "Shut Up and Dance" by Walk the Moon and Unaccompanied's cover of "Ex's and Oh's" by Elle King.

"It's definitely one of our biggest and most involved events of the year, and one we look forward to a lot," Nora Murphy, senior psychology major and the president of Unaccompanied said. "It's toward the end of the semester, so it's a good way to really celebrate what we've accomplished in our newest and best arrangements."

One of OSC 2015's highlights was a closing performance by the Exit 247 B Flat Project, a group organized by Student Ambassadors as a parody of the popular all-male a cappella group Exit 245. Austin Griffith, a senior psychology major, had taken part in the group since his sophomore year.

"The men in Exit 247 dress up in solid colored polos, plain white boxers [and] sunglasses and then get their dance on," Griffith said in an email interview. "Everyone has busy schedules, so we learned how to do our dance in about an hour. The dance never goes as planned. It's always funny to see how people improvise and go with the flow. But I'll admit some of the guys really like to twerk."

During this night of silliness and entertainment, the university demonstrated its ability to give back to those in need. Operation Santa Claus succeeded in raising not only the spirits of those in attendance, but also a significant amount of money for a charity, which would greatly benefit the lives of families and children in Harrisonburg.





Mozaic Dance performs an original number for the crowd. The team's performace was an entertaining way for students to take a break before finals.



Students purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win holiday prizes. The event staff encouraged students to donate $5 to benefit children in the area.



Low Key performs the song "Shut Up and Dance" onstage. Since 1999, comedy, dance and a cappella groups performed at the annual event.

OUT OF THE BOX

Underground music venue attracts students

Much like a Crayola box filled with crayons of all shades, the Crayola House venue on Old South High Street welcomed a wide array of musical talent not often heard on the radio. Beginning in the '80s, Crayola House drew in crowds who listened to the student-run radio station WXJM. The station mentioned when underground bands were coming through the Harrisonburg area, many of which traveled from all over the country just to play in popular venues in the city.

Turnip King, a basement band from Sea Cliff, New York, played at Crayola House over the summer while on tour.

"My favorite part about playing music in venues like this is being in a space where I can meet new people," Lucia Arias, Turnip King singer and guitarist, said.

Ian Munro, a junior media arts and design major and one of Crayola House's six student residents, was involved in the process of promoting bands.

"On WXJM, there's a moment [when] we read local shows and events," Munro said. "We don't give out the address, but the bands are able to ... use Bandcamp to get picked."

Bandcamp was a website that allowed people to find new music and directly support artists with donations. Munro noted that Crayola House aimed to make students and other basement-dwellers feel safe.

"One would hope if someone is harassing another person, the community would rise up and help," Munro said. "We take any sort of music genre here, but we listen to make sure the general population doesn't feel threatened."

Harrisonburg was home to many up-and-coming bands that performed in popular local venues, such as Clementine Café, as well as lesser known venues like Crayola House. The annual Mid-Atlantic College Radio Conference, or MACKRoCk, inspired many JMU students to attend shows in Harrisonburg.

"Everyone is really passionate about music in this community, and everyone cares about each other," Claire Merian, a junior nursing major, said.

JMU students were often unaware of venues like Crayola House, which caught the attention of those who appreciated the colorful music scene. The graffiti artwork decorating the house's basement added personality and eccentricity to the low-key party spot.

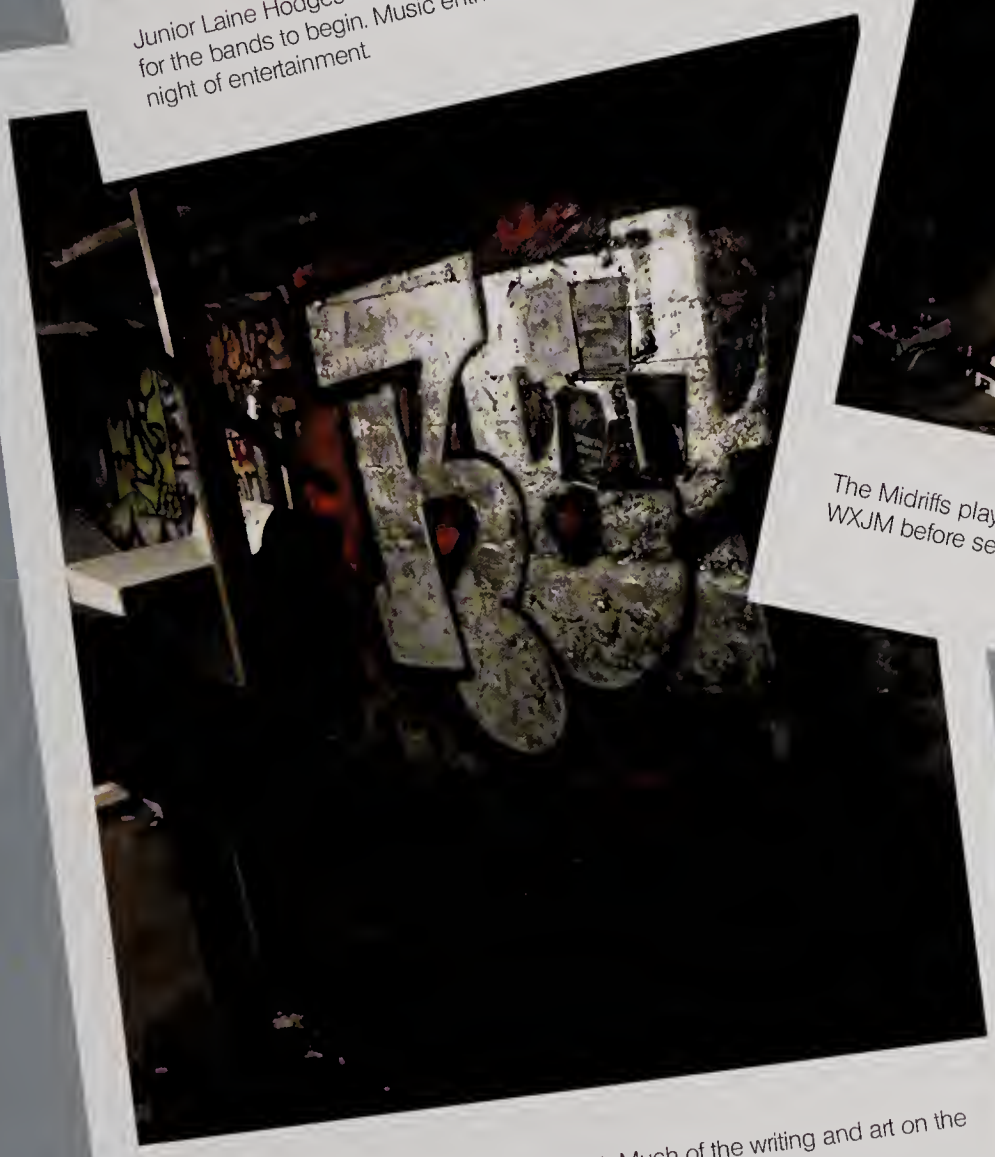
WRITER | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Allison Lindsey
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer



Junior Laine Hodges sits in the basement of Crayola House, waiting for the bands to begin. Music enthusiants went to the venue to enjoy a night of entertainment.



The Midriffs play a set in Crayola House. Students often heard the bands on WXJM before seeing them live.



Crayola House features street and graffiti art. Much of the writing and art on the walls had been there for many years.

HUNGRY FOR HARRISONBURG

Downtown Harrisonburg offers cuisines for all palates

Words | Taylor Kahny
Photos | Carley Toms
Design | Karen Franz



A historic sign marks the entrance to downtown Harrisonburg. Numerous restaurants and retail shops characterized this part of [illegible]

A 33
HARRISONBURG

HERE THOMAS HARRISON AND WIFE DEEDED LAND FOR THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AUGUST 5, 1779. THE SAME ACT ESTABLISHED BOTH LOUISVILLE, KY., AND HARRISONBURG, MAY, 1780. NAMED FOR ITS FOUNDER, THE TOWN WAS ALSO KNOWN AS ROCKTOWN. IT WAS INCORPORATED IN 1849. IN ITS VICINITY BATTLES WERE FOUGHT IN 1862 AND 1864. THE PRESENT COURTHOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1897. HARRISONBURG BECAME A CITY IN 1916.

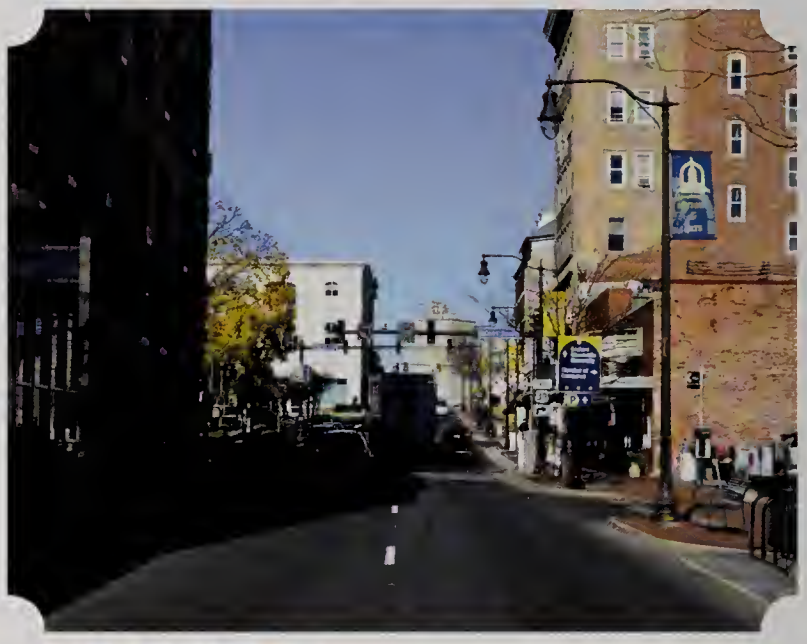
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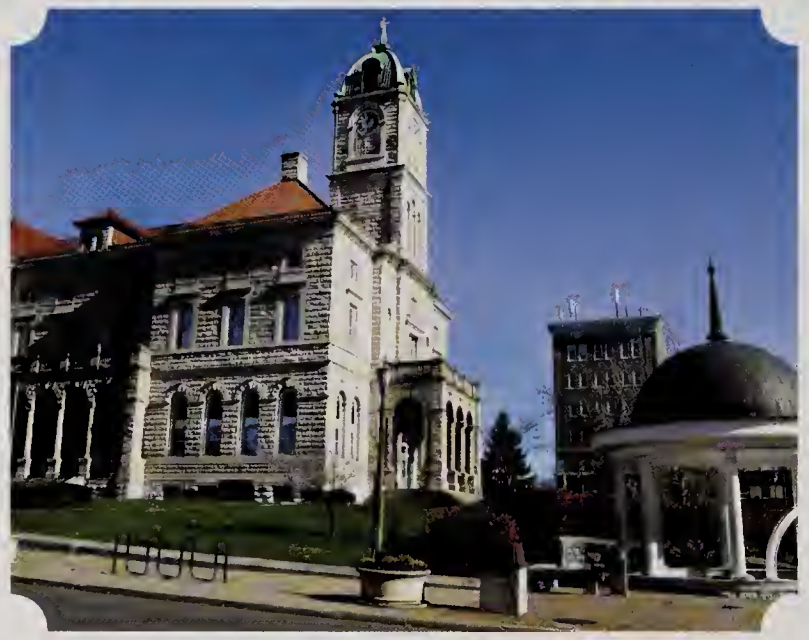
Court Square


Keep Your
Friends Close
AND
Your Farmers
Closer

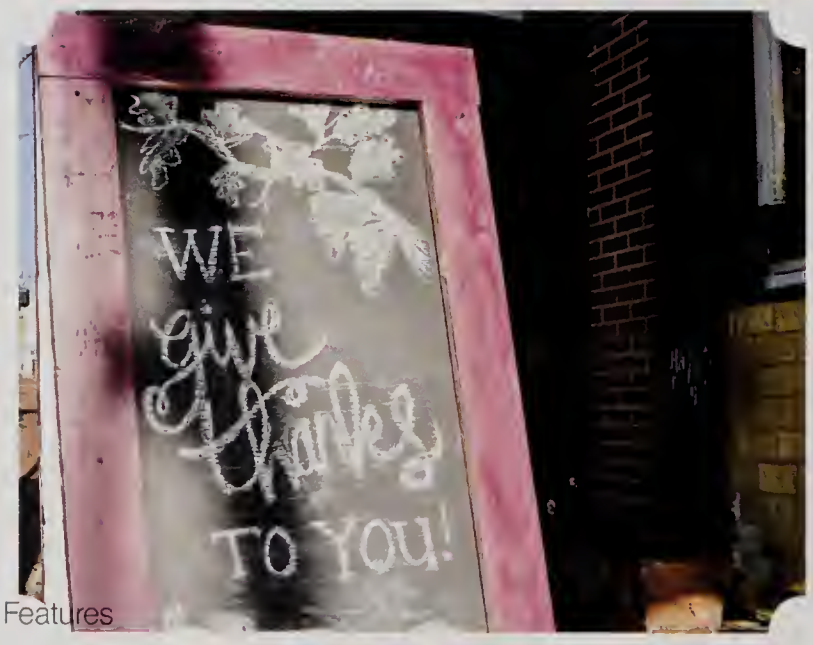









WETSEL SEED


WE
give Hearts
TO YOU!


BELLA
LUNA
WOOD FIRED
PIZZA

Left: Iconic sites around downtown Harrisonburg stand ready for visitors. Harrisonburg boasted a welcoming mix of restaurants and businesses.



Above: A colorful sign outside an art shop in downtown Harrisonburg depicts weekly events. Stores downtown often displayed signs to keep students and permanent residents informed o sales and events.

The diverse cuisine of downtown Harrisonburg gave students the opportunity to taste a different culture firsthand. As food was a large part of what made a town distinct, it seemed important for college students to have options. Some restaurants, such as Beyond Restaurant and Lounge, hired chefs who had lived and worked in the food industry abroad for a large portion of their lives.

Nancy Nugen, a sushi chef from Vietnam, prided herself on Beyond Restaurant and Lounge's authentic Vietnamese dishes, which mirrored those featured in Vietnam's high-end restaurants. Upon her arrival to Harrisonburg, Nugen brought extensive knowledge of Vietnamese regions to Beyond. Other local Vietnamese restaurants even contacted her for recipes, but she did not spill any of her secrets.

Other restaurants, such as Taste of Thai, Cuban Burger and Las Chamas Caribbean Restaurant, contributed to downtown Harrisonburg's diverse cuisine. Steve Pizarro, Cuban Burger's owner, moved to Harrisonburg and spent his first few months with a tiny eating space, selling burgers on a plastic table. Pizarro kept working to make his dream come true, and in 2012, he acquired full ownership of Cuban Burger.

"I found something I liked, and before I knew it, opportunities were presenting themselves," Pizarro said. "It was hard not to see that things were happening [in Harrisonburg]."

In addition to diversifying its downtown area, Harrisonburg seemed to succeed in satisfying the student body with popular American restaurants where one could munch on a burger and fries by day and engage in the after-hours scene by night.

Billy Jack's Wing & Draft Shack was one such popular student hot spot. The restaurant's late-night menu featured "Sticky Nugs," which were homemade chicken nuggets tossed in a variety of sauces.

"Sticky Nugs are the best thing in Harrisonburg," Tyler Mamrot, a senior computer information systems major, said. "Who would have thought chicken nuggets could be so good?"

After attending an open-mic performance at Ruby's or dancing the night away while purchasing $2 rail drinks at The Artful Dodger, students could arrive at Billy Jack's Wing & Draft Shack and enjoy snack boxes for what many saw as an endless good time.

Although some considered Harrisonburg to be small, large crowd of foodies were certainly attracted to the town. Students, professors, Harrisonburg locals and other restaurant patrons could bond over an authentic sushi dish at Beyond or a "Cuban Chop Chop," a dish similar to Chipotle's Burrito Bowl, at Cuban Burger. A taste of these different cuisines provided guests with a slice of life from many different cultural backgrounds.

STUDENTS TO THE RESCUE

Students volunteer to keep Harrisonburg safe

Sympathetic to the needs of the world around them, many students sought to effect real and lasting change within and beyond JMU. Some sacrificed their time and energy to volunteer at one of Harrisonburg's rescue organizations, heeding the call to heal the wounds of the community.

Senior philosophy major Samuel Kelaher was one of over a dozen JMU students who served as a volunteer firefighter at Hose Company No. 4, a fire department that primarily serviced Rockingham County. According to Kelaher, serving in this capacity was a way to hone skills that would be useful in emergency situations as well as in everyday life.

"[Volunteering as a firefighter] teaches you a lot about yourself, and in a very ... positive way, teaches you how to engage conflicts and obstacles in your life," Kelaher said.

For Kelaher, the fire department allowed him to stay focused on his goals and on the community around him while greatening his commitment to his duties.

"Hose Company 4 as a fire station emulates a lot of the finer qualities of the JMU community," Kelaher said.

The Harrisonburg Rescue Squad, or Rescue 40, was another agency that offered EMS and rescue services to the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County areas. Composed entirely of volunteers, many of whom were JMU students, the rescue squad responded to thousands of calls each year.

> "People call us on their worst day, and we just want to be there for them."

For senior health sciences major Jackie Bellanceau, volunteering in the EMS capacity allowed for a perspective unlike any other.

"In the EMS world, you get a huge window into ... the healthcare system," Bellanceau said. "And it's more of this intense view because you're the first person on the scene; you don't know what you're walking into."

Each month, Harrisonburg Rescue Squad members were expected to complete 48 hours, or six shifts, of service. However, many volunteers chose to serve more often than was required.

"The thing about our agency is what you put into it is what you're going to get out of it," Bellanceau said. "The more you're there, the more people you're going to talk to, the more calls you're going to run [and] the more things you're going to learn."

Senior health sciences major Cayla Wilson had been volunteering at Rescue 40 for over a year and explained that the Rescue Squad aimed to maintain the welfare of the community.

"People call us on their worst day, and we just want to be there for them," Wilson said.

Student fire and rescue responders understood that the college experience was not bound by JMU's campus, nor was it limited to JMU students. These volunteers extended their scopes of influence into the Harrisonburg community as a whole, quite literally keeping the community alive.

WORDS | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | Allison Lindsey
DESIGN | Karen Franz and Leah Jacobs



Seniors Cayla Wilson and Jackie Bellanceau sit in the back of a Harrisonburg Rescue Squad ambulance. Many students sacrificed their time to offer rescue services to Harrisonburg.



THE THINKING CAP

Career and Academic Planning office gives students advice about their futures

Senior Logan Reed exchanges ideas with fellow students in the CAP office. The new center in the SSC gave students a larger space to spread out and talk about the future.

Deciding which career path to take was a tricky question for some college students, but luckily, the Career and Academic Planning office was available as a guide for future endeavors. With the creation of the innovative Student Success Center on campus in the fall of 2014, CAP found a new home, and this resource became accessible to all students and alumni.

"What is unique about JMU academic advising is that we have an element of academic advising and career services in one operation," CAP director Mary Morsch said. "We do that intentionally because we know that when students are trying to figure out what they are going to major in and what they want to do when they graduate, it's not two separate questions."

CAP was a resource that coordinated freshman, academic and career advising. CAP even helped some students find internships in their prospective fields.

Moving to the new office in the SSC helped CAP make many improvements to its operation.

"There is an increased number of student traffic coming through, and 14 percent more on-campus interviews than the previous year due to expanded space," Morsch said. "For us, the biggest plus is that we used to be in two separate locations, and now we are housed in one facility. That is a great plus for us because we can support each other, and we can function most effectively as a team."

The faculty-to-student ratio at JMU attracted Morsch to the university, and she saw the CAP team as representative of that collaboration. Along with its 24 full-time staff members, CAP incorporated career educators as an additional source of advice for students. The CAP staff trained these student volunteers to work with students on first-time résumé and cover letter reviews and developed workshops and passport events.

"[Career educators] have been instrumental in helping us to provide additional services to students in places that are not as easy for our staff to get to," Morsch said.

The 15 career educators were a committed group who worked a range of four to six hours per week,

"Because I'm a writing major, reviewing resumes and cover letters was particularly interesting to me because I would be able to help other people write," senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major Dina Manco said. "So it's nice to help them out and hopefully help them get that internship or job that might put them on the path to figuring out what they want to do for the rest of their lives."

In return for all the time these educators put into the program, CAP provided them with training, professional development and a mentor program.

"Part of it is teaching the career educators what we need them to know, and the other part is asking them, 'What do you want to know?' so it's of value to them," Morsch said.

CAP served to blend students' academic lives with their professional futures.

"CAP helps you to see who you are as a person and also who you are professionally and where that comes together," said Manco. "It's not just employment preparation; it's also about life preparation."

With the benefits of its SSC office and its coactive team, CAP was able to extend its services to students while improving its function to the university.

WRITE | Christiana Frietag
PHOTOS | Nicole Landry
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao and Leah Jacobs

Below left: Internship workshop adviser Laura Hickerson works with sophomore Andrew Kucharuk in order to prepare him for internship applications. The office had many rooms where workshops were frequently held.





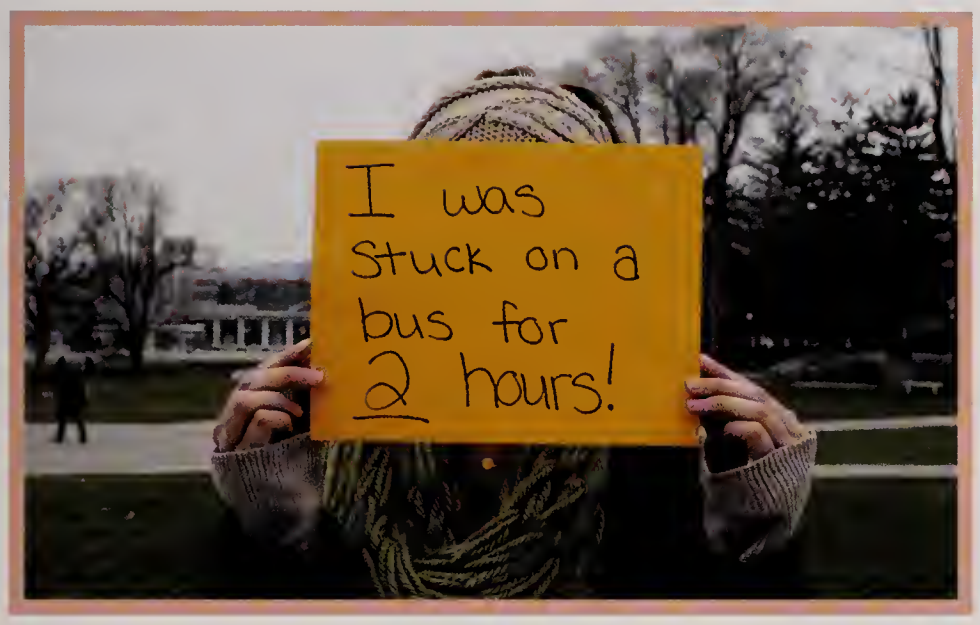


Top right: The CAP banner stand welcomes students into the offices. Located on the third floor of the SSC, CAP was easy to find for new and returning students.
Bottom right: Administrative assistant Shana Pettit sits at her desk in the new office. The larger space provided students with the access to more resources.

NEVER HAVE I EVER

Random students shared their most embarrassing moments at JMU

WORDS I Raja Abdul-Badee
PHOTOS I Alexis Painter
DESIGN I Paige Lobuts and Leah Jacobs

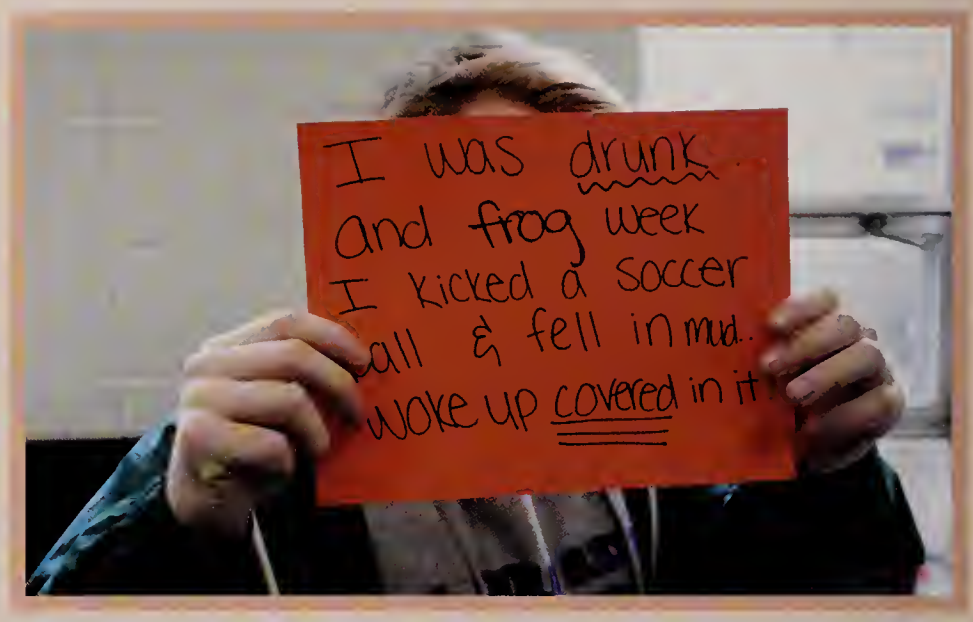


"I got on to the wrong bus during the first week of classes and was stuck on the bus for two hours, missing my writing class. — female, freshman"

"I woke up one day and rolled off of my bed, falling off onto the floor. I hit my knee on the mini-fridge and couldn't walk for two weeks. I had to explain to everyone what had happened. — male, senior"



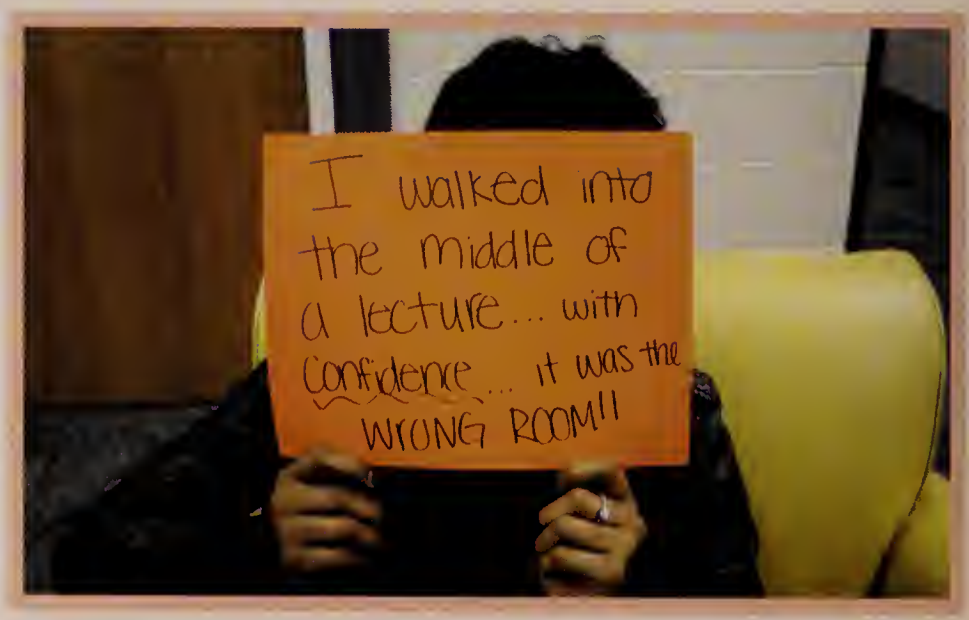
“During FrOG Week, there was construction in front of my house, and while I was drunk, I tried to kick a soccer ball and missed. I slid into mud and fell into a hole. The next day I woke up covered in mud, not sure of what happened until my friend told me. — male, senior”





“I once responded to a random girl in a [bathroom] stall next to me on campus. After she said ‘hello,’ ... I said ’hi’ back and realized she was on the phone. So awkward. — female, junior”

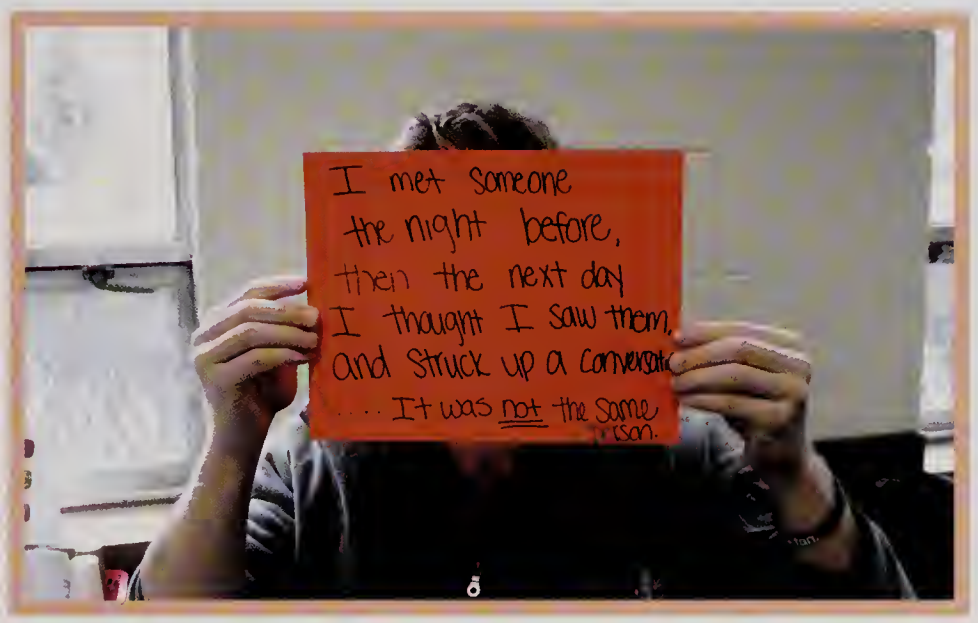
“I walked into another lecture while it was still going on, and everyone noticed. It was the wrong room. I was so embarrassed. — female, senior”

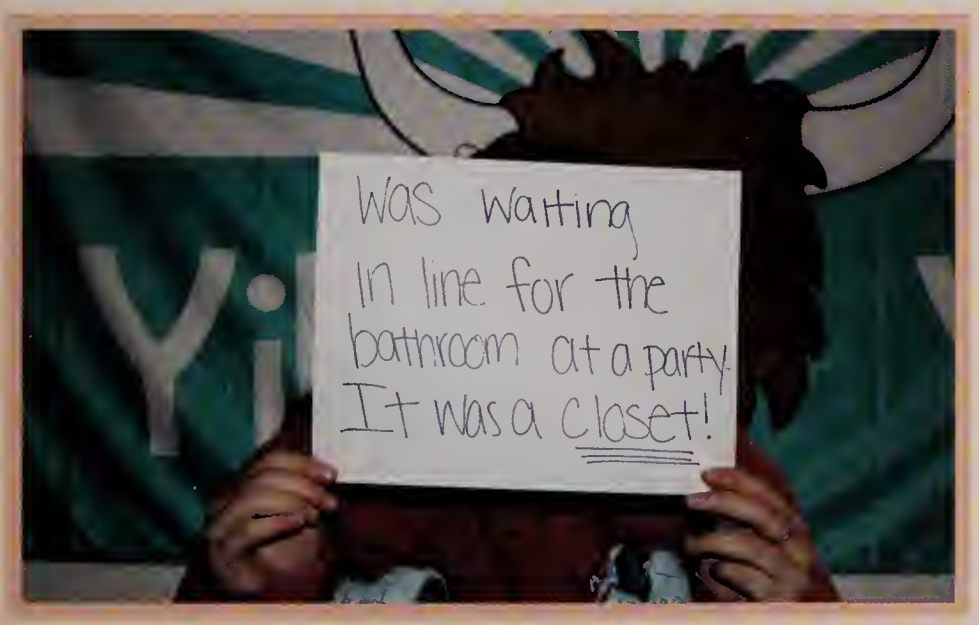




"One time during my freshman year, my roommate and I were trapped inside of our dorm room in Shorts because the doorknob fell off ... Our RA had to come and get us out. — female, junior"

"One day, I met a guy here on campus and got his name. The next day I met another guy, who I thought was the same guy I met. So I called him by that name, but it actually wasn't. — male, senior"





"The other night [my friend and I] were at a party in [Forest Hills] Manor. We were waiting in line for the longest time for the bathroom. Nobody ever came, and we kept knocking on the door. It turned out it was a closet. — female, sophomore"

THERE'S SNOW STOPPING US

Winter Storm Jonas submerges the campus

Spring semester 2016 commenced with record-breaking snowfall known as Winter Storm Jonas. On Jan. 22 and 23, 2016, the Harrisonburg community saw over 25 inches of snow in what would be the 3rd-largest snowstorm on record in the area. Although many students enjoyed a four-day weekend filled with winter activities, the unsung heroes of Jonas were the university employees who were hard at work maintaining the campus throughout the inclement weather.

"We take so much pride in how beautiful our campus is," William Wyatt, the director of communications and university spokesperson, said. "A lot of it is because of [Facilities Management personnel] that give up their weekend for the snowstorm, only to go home and shovel their own driveways."

Facilities Management was just one department involved in making the campus accessible during Jonas. Employees were responsible for clearing roads and sidewalks, as well as partnering with ISAT faculty to determine road temperature and weather forecasts. With over 1.2 million square feet of sidewalk and around 113 parking lots to be cleared on JMU's campus, these employees worked 16-hour shifts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of that weekend.

"[Facilities Management] had 120 employees working. 115 of them stayed over Friday and Saturday night," Wyatt said. "These are people that are here throughout the entire snowstorm. Their first priority is the safety of this campus."

These employees worked tirelessly throughout the storm to move a total of 13,800 tons of snow. The university provided Facilities Management, Dining Services and other staff with hotel rooms and a shuttle to and from campus.

Additionally, Dining Services took on the challenge of feeding on-campus residents during Jonas. Dining locations such as D-Hall, E-Hall, PC Dukes and Mr. Chips were kept open to feed the 7,000 students enduring the storm.

"We were also able to provide meals for [Facilities] Management, the Health Center and Public Safety, who were all working to keep our campus safe during this time," Angela Ritchie, the marketing manager of JMU Dining Services, said.

Dining Services purchased disposable plates and utensils to prepare for the possibility of a power outage and preordered extra food in anticipation of the storm.

"This was certainly a big storm, but … it all went smoothly from our perspective," Ritchie said.

Similarly, Facilities Management performed all the maintenance for snow removal in July and August, before a snowflake had even fallen. Other services, such as Public Safety, collaborated with the local and regional police to determine road conditions in the region, the accessibility of off-campus apartment complexes and the time at which public transportation would begin running again.

"We are constantly reviewing how things went [and] what we can do better," Wyatt said. "This time around, we closed Thursday night before it even started snowing. … That's something we don't typically do. In the end, I think it was a good decision."

During and after the storm, this committed group was prepared to maintain campus safety.

"A big group of people are involved in making sure that the people stay safe during a crisis," Wyatt said.

The university was able to open its doors again on Tuesday, Jan. 26, thanks to the commitment and collaboration of JMU's employees.

WRITER | Christiana Freitag
PHOTOS | Carley Toms
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer



Several feet of snow cover the Quad following Winter Storm Jonas. Many students participated in snow football and other icy activities on campus during the resulting snow days.



ATHLETICS

SETTING STANDARDS

Women's sports ranked no. 2 in state

The JMU women's sports program had an exciting year, winning second overall in Virginia high-achieving women's athletics programs for the 2014-2015 school year. The program also placed second overall in the Virginia Sports Information Directors' All-Sport Survey.

"This is an annual survey conducted by the communications professionals, like myself, at all the state schools," the interim director of athletics communications, Kevin Warner, said. "The rankings are purely based upon win-loss records, so what the women's teams have done to deserve the ranking has been to win at an incredibly high rate."

The Dukes won with a ranking of 0.721, which constituted 155 wins, 60 losses and zero ties. This score surpassed the previous year's ranking of 0.685.

"Our women's teams dominate and have consecutive winning seasons," junior justice studies major Da'Lishia Griffin said. "Based on how well we are doing now and how well women athletes performed in the past, more athletes will want to come here and improve upon what success has already been accomplished."

While not impossible, it would be difficult for successors to match the accomplishments of the female student athletes during the 2014-2015 school year. The women's athletic program's eight teams finished the year at 0.600 or better, four of which achieved marks of 0.700 or better.

Although these hardworking athletes played a significant role in the program's success, JMU's sports program appreciated the driving forces behind the victory.

"In terms of influencers, it speaks to having a good administration that hires good coaches who attract quality student athletes," Warner said. "Without any of them, we wouldn't have our program."

The coaches not only molded student athletes as competitors, but also as people.

"Being on the women's basketball team has helped shape me as a person by the daily lessons that we learn and expectations that are placed upon us," Griffin said. "One main thing for me is that we are always told that we are representing someone, whether it's the team, the university, ourselves, our parents, et cetera. So we must carry ourselves in a way that is appropriate."

The female athletes at JMU set the bar high for future competitors looking to take their skills to a new level.

WORDS | Hannah Beverage
PHOTOS | Courtesy of The Breeze
DESIGN | Carley Toms



Left: Freshman Caroline Sdanowich passes an opponent on the field. During Sdanowich's senior year in high school, she became an All-American athlete.



Right: Freshman guard Elemy Colome uses her offensive skills during a game. Colome earned a total of 1,100 points in high school.



Left: Junior forward and midfielder Ashley Herndon heads a ball to her teammate. During the 2015 season, Herndon scored 10 goals, six of which were game winning.

TRIPLE THREAT

Triathletes use spring break to hone their skills

Competing in a triathlon seemed like an impossible feat for many, as it required a mastery of three different types of grueling physical exercise: swimming, cycling and running. Triathletes typically registered for sprint or full-distance triathlon races, but some dedicated team members challenged themselves to complete in an IRONMAN race.

Despite the rigorous time commitment, even the newest additions to JMU's triathlon club had positive outlooks on the experience. Freshman computer information systems major Brandon Zarzecki expressed that the club had a no-nonsense attitude.

"The biggest challenge is getting over the fact that there's no excuses," Zarzecki said. "Committing to the practices when you try to be lazy and don't want to get up in the morning can be a struggle. But at the end of the day, you know what you need to do to get better."

The club trained all year to remain in top condition for races occurring throughout the school year. On Tuesday mornings, members headed over to UREC to attend a 6:30 a.m. swim practice.

Additionally, team members participated in evening cycle and track practices. Group bike rides were another important aspect of race training.

When he arrived at JMU in 2012, USA Triathlon-certified coach Brett Jenner brought experience that gave the club an extra advantage. Not only did Jenner attend most of the team's practices and races, but he also held a spring break training week each year in Clermont, Florida, encouraging the members to give the sport everything they could.

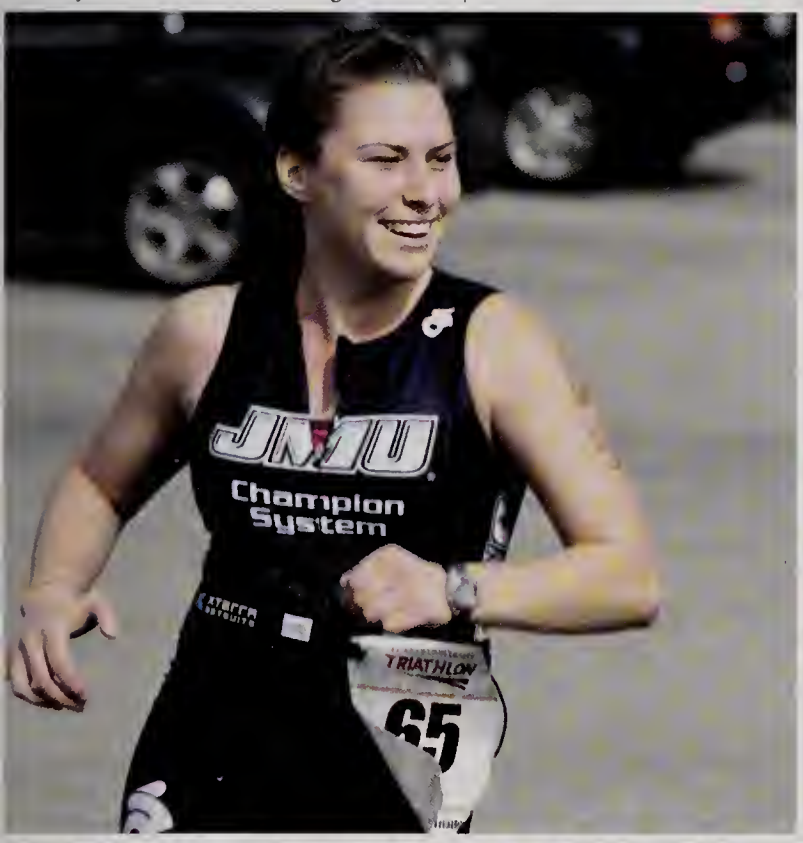
Carolyn Carlson, a senior biology major and the president of JMU Triathlon, attended the first Spring Break training week in 2013.

"[The training week takes place] about a month and a week before nationals, so it's a big block of training that we do," Carlson said. "We all drive down together. Most of the days we're doing all three sports, and in between all the workouts, we're just eating and sleeping and hanging out a ton. It's ... really nice team building and also a really nice training block."

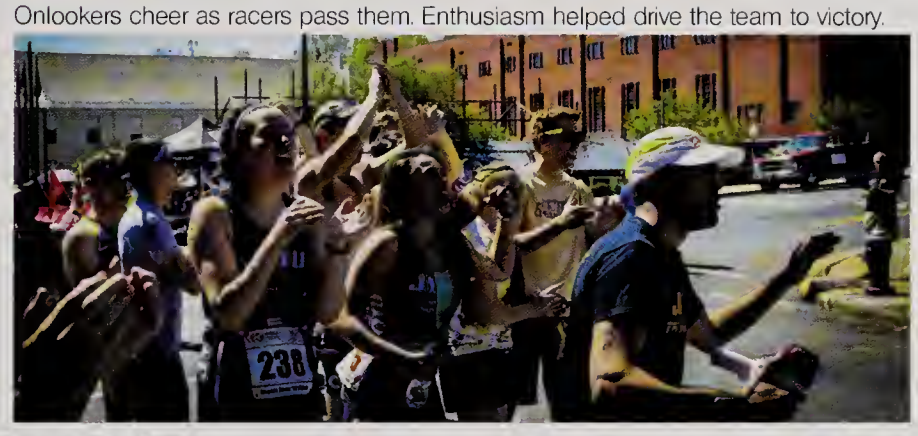
With the help of a dedicated coach and high-intensity workout sessions, JMU Triathlon paved the way to success as they worked toward a national championship.

WORDS | Michelle Criqui and Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Triathlon Club
DESIGN | Karen Franz and Leah Jacobs

A member of JMU Triathlon smiles during a race. Triathletes displayed mastery over their bodies during these competitions.



Onlookers cheer as racers pass them. Enthusiasm helped drive the team to victory.





Racers wait at the starting line to begin a triathlon. Long hours of practice prepared team members for these events.



JMU triathletes support their teammate as he runs by during a race. Encouragement played a large role in the team dynamic of JMU Triathlon.

PIN FOR THE WIN

Club wrestling team displays stamina on the mat

A blow to the head, leg or shoulder was common in wrestling across the country. However, the club wrestling team seemed to excel during matches with endurance and strength.

"At practices, we do lots of live wrestling because we coach ourselves," junior health services administration major and club president James Conte said. "The way we want to get in shape is through live wrestling, drilling and cardio."

Conte began wrestling in first grade and believed that practicing in a fun environment contributed to team members' success. The club practiced three to four times a week, increasing the intensity according to the team's schedule and approaching conferences. Nonetheless, wrestling matches were often exhausting.

"You can only wrestle for seven minutes," Conte said. "I can't understand why I'm physically that exhausted after seven minutes."

Although the club members kept track of their own personal records, wrestling involved a team aspect that allowed the members to focus on eventually having a full roster. Composed of 15 men, the team boasted four national qualifiers and three All-Americans.

"We're hoping to send six guys to nationals," Conte said. "One is ranked No. 1 in the country and the other is No. 2: [George] 'Trey' Gregory and [Joseph] Staley."

Staley, a sophomore economics major, began wrestling during his sophomore year of high school and gained respect for his teammates during challenging practices in the mat room.

"When teammates suffer through a tough practice or match together, they grow a deeper respect for each other," Staley said in an email interview. "Most of my memories from the team are getting beaten up by [my teammates] in the mat room."

Although many JMU wrestlers managed to evade injuries associated with the sport, they gained skills that allowed them to find the best way for them to train for those seven minutes of high-level physical endurance on match day.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Club Wrestling
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens

Displaying the Duke Dog on his uniform, junior Joseph Moughan fights for a win. Experienced student-athletes coached the wrestling team.





The JMU club wrestling team spends time in the mat room. The team practiced several times a week to prepare for competitions.



During a match, senior Steven Cotnoir wrestles an opponent to the mat. Wrestlers wore protective headgear to guard against injury.



Above: Lunging for an opposing player, sophomore Margaret Rich gives her all during a game. The women's rugby team celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2016.

Right: Senior Monifa Williams sprints down the field with the ball. Williams served as a captain on the team.



"We did such an awesome job at the tournament and had people we didn't even know from all over the country supporting us the whole way through."

POWER PLAY

Rugby players and alumni play sevens

With cleats on, water bottles in hand and mouth guards ready to protect their pearly whites, Madison Women's Rugby took to the turf. At JMU, club rugby dated back to the 1970s. It was the only sport where the same rules applied to both men and women.

Despite rugby's grueling nature, many alumni were still involved with the organization years later. Both the men's and women's rugby teams aimed to establish an alumni weekend, during which current members could go head-to-head in a match with skilled former players.

"It's our 30th anniversary, so we're planning an alumni bash. We're postponing it to the fall, but I'm trying to make it happen before I graduate," senior integrated science and technology major and club president Kayla Cook said.

Cook admitted that orignally she had signed up for rugby as a joke but later fell in love with the sport. Since Cook was the daughter of two former rugby players, she had felt inclined to give it a try.

"I walked by [the players], saw them out there practicing and kept walking," Cook said. "I went back the next time, and I'm so glad I did."

Other team members expressed similar feelings of initial hesitation.

"I was very intimidated at first," senior psychology major Maria Camargo Gomez said in an email interview. "This was a sport I knew nothing about, and I just threw myself in right [at the start of] college. There were a few times I was so frustrated that I couldn't figure the game out, and I wanted to quit, but I stuck with it."

In the fall, Madison Women's Rugby finished at the top of their conference for the first time, entering the playoffs as the No. 1 seed. Women's rugby was the fastest-growing sport in the country in 2016, a result of rugby sevens' inclusion in the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. Rugby sevens was a shorter rugby match consisting of seven players in place of the standard 15.

Carmago Gomez took part in the 2013 Women's Club Sevens National Championship, where the club had finished second in the country.

"We weren't really a sevens-oriented team," Carmago Gomez said. "But we did such an awesome job at the tournament and had people we didn't even know from all over the country supporting us the whole way through."

The collaborative nature of Madison Women's Rugby combined with the support of other college rugby teams allowed the women to set aside any anxieties concerning the sport and face their opponents with resolve.

WRITER | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Kayla Cook
DESIGN | Karen Franz





Above: Senior Darian Clark holds the ball close as she makes her way toward the goal line. Rugby required plenty of physical contact during games.

Left: Defending the ball against the opposing team, sophomore Nicole Hernandez works for a win. The Dukes invited alumni to play alongside them for a game.

MIND OVER BATTER

Baseball steps up to the plate



“We want to take our program to the top, and we know that these new coaches have the ability to guide us there.”







Members of the baseball team compete for victory during games. Different positions had to work on various skills in order to beat their competitors.

Senior Chad Carroll hits the ball into play during a game. The players often practiced hitting the baseball pitched in different styles.



It all began in the bottom of the first inning against University of Maryland, College Park, on March 24, 2015. Kyren Parrott, a junior communication studies major, slammed a triple to left center and brought senior economics major Chad Carroll home to score the first run of the night. Playing at home was definitely an advantage, but it also made the boys work harder to achieve success on the baseball field.

"Maryland was ranked very high and ended up going to a super regional in the postseason. So winning against them was a big deal," junior justice studies major Aaron Hoover said.

JMU started the game off strong with an 8-0 lead against the No. 20 university, holding strong as their opponent fought back and gained a few runs against the Dukes. Ultimately, however, JMU was able to pull through and defeat the Terrapins with a final score of 8-6.

"This was one of the hardest games this year," Hoover said.

Later in the season, the boys had their highest hitting game with a total of 23 runs, bringing home a win against Hofstra University on May 10, 2015.

As the season came to a close, coach Joe "Spanky" McFarland led the team to a total of 18 wins. It was an exhilarating conclusion to McFarland's coaching career, but it also meant the start of a fresh season, complete with a new coach.

Coach Marlin Ikenberry and three new assistant coaches came on staff at the start of the 2016 season. Ikenberry had served as Virginia Military Institute's head baseball coach before coming to JMU. He led the VMI team to 282 wins, the most in the program's history. This major staff adjustment set up team members for some significant changes in routine.

"Our biggest challenge this year has been getting used to the new strategies and playing style of our new coaching staff," senior kinesiology major Benjamin Garner said.

Despite these changes, team members were able to use the strengths of the new coaching staff to their advantage.

"We don't see this as a challenge because we want to take our program to the top, and we know that these new coaches have the ability to guide us there," Garner said.

With the success of their 2015 season, along with strategic insight from a new coaching staff, the Dukes were ready to take on the 2016 season with all they had.

WORDS | Michelle Criqui and Samantha Swingle
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Karen Franz

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Softball team sets its sights on the College World Series

WORDS I Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS I JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN I Alexandra Rathjens



Senior Erica Reid runs the bases at a softball game.

As the softball team geared up for their 2016 season, they had one goal in mind: to make it to the College World Series. With a record-breaking 2015 season, including a game against East Carolina University during which senior sport and recreation management major Jailyn Ford pitched a perfect game, the team had their eyes on the ultimate prize as they moved forward.

Drawn toward this award-winning group, junior geographic science major and utility player Tahli Moore traveled all the way from Sydney, Australia, to join their ranks.

"I was able to come and play at a really good level, compared to at home," Moore said.

Another highlight of the action-packed 2015 season was the Dukes' game against Virginia Tech, which was so crowded that they had to seat some fans on a hill beside the stadium.

"Our fan base throughout the whole year just grew continuously," infielder and senior hospitality management major Hannah Hayes said. "It was exciting to see everyone in the community supporting us so much."

The team also had the honor of hosting the regional Colonial Athletic Association tournament in May 2015, which was a significant stepping stone toward their goal of making it to the College World Series.

"[It] was just really exciting," Hayes said. "The furthest [JMU] has been is regionals and the best thing that we've done, basically, is host our regional last year."

As the Dukes entered into their new season, they welcomed new players with encouragement and advice. Outfielder Grace Sanderson, a freshman who had yet to declare a major, felt at ease among her new teammates.

"Coming in, I was very, very nervous about workouts and just how it was going to go, and it actually went really well," Sanderson said. "The team helps you get through things. ... I can go up to anyone and ask them for help on my homework, or just for a ride, or to take me to the grocery store, or just to talk."

The Dukes did not let participating in a highly competitive atmosphere affect their closeness as a team.

"We all have the same goal," Moore said. "So we're not going to sabotage each other. ... We want to work together to be better."

After an impressive 2015 season, JMU Softball hit the ground running toward another historic year.







Top: Senior Jailyn Ford pitches the softball at a game. Ford hailed from Hot Springs, Virginia.

Middle: Sophomore Megan Good swings the bat. Good was a pitcher and infielder on the team.

Bottom: Junior Taylor Newton throws a ball to a teammate. Newton played in the outfield during games.

MAKING A RACKET

Men's tennis coach makes plans for victory

For many athletes, sports were a way of life from a young age. Attending summer camps and clinics prepared them for the rigorous schedule of a collegiate athlete. The JMU men's tennis program recruited young athletes from all around the globe. Despite the difference in the players' backgrounds, one thing remained the same: Dedication and passion for the sport started early.

Nicolai Nonnenbroich, the team's assistant coach, picked up his racket for the first time at age four. Growing up, he played for various academies in Germany and France, and in college, he played for University of North Carolina at Asheville. After he graduated, he continued his tennis career as an assistant coach at California University of Pennsylvania, leading the team to victory. In the fall of 2015, Nonnenbroich arrived at JMU to achieve even more success.

"Coaching has been in my blood since I was little," Nonnenbroich said in an email interview. "Both of my parents are volleyball coaches. My favorite part of coaching is seeing things that a player and I have been working on 'click' as well as the successful application of the work during practice put to use in matches, leading to victory."

One of the players who experienced this "click" was junior international business major Sebastian Salinas. Growing up in Mexico, Salinas also began playing tennis when he was young. As of fall 2015, he ranked No. 11 in the Atlantic region and No. 123 nationally.

"I started playing tennis when I was 11 years old, and then I started taking it more seriously at 14," Salinas said in an email interview. "My favorite moment at JMU so far was when we played George Mason [University] last season. Many alumni came to watch us play and it was very enjoyable."

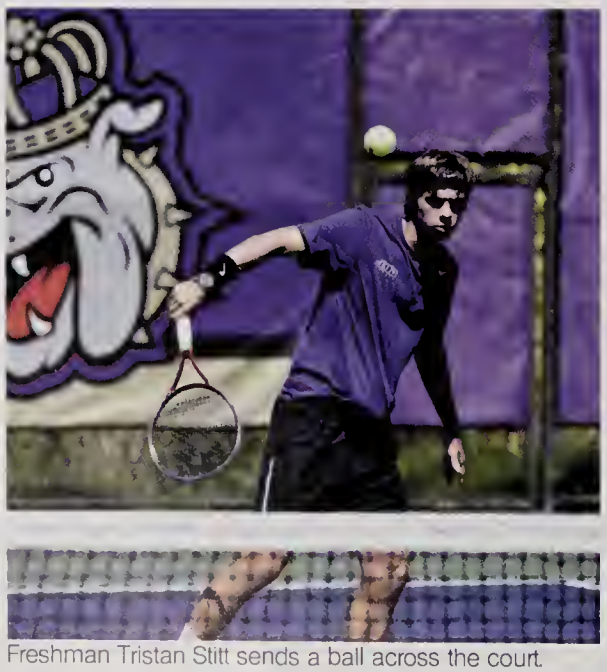
During the 2015 season, the team played in six Colonial Athletic Association matches in order to increase competition and improve as a team.

"Our fall season was a good preparation for the spring," Nonnenbroich said. "Our guys had some very solid wins. Our doubles pair of Maxi Branth and Tristan Stitt defeated the [No. 1] seed from the University of Virginia at regionals, which was a huge confidence boost for them and showed us what we're capable of."

The team underwent rigorous interval training to prepare for matches against nationally ranked teams, such as the Pennsylvania State University. The players also practiced yoga, which put them in a calm state of mind.

All of the camps and clinics these players attended paired with the hard work they had put forth from a young age contributed largely to the athletes' success at JMU.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao



Freshman Tristan Stitt sends a ball across the court. Stitt continued a successful high school career during his first season at JMU.



Senior Robert Stirling concentrates during a match. Stirling was an international student from Caboolture, Australia.

or Robert Stirling returns the ball. The tennis team practiced on the Main Campus courts beside Mister Chips.

Freshman Tristan Stitt reaches out for the ball during a match. Stitt came from Dallas to play for the Dukes.

Junior Rachel Nelson works on her skills during practice.
The women on the tennis team worked hard to stay on top of their game.



LOVE FOR THE GAME

Women's tennis sharpens skills while working with their new coach

A strong tennis player usually had eight basic shots in his or her repertoire when challenging an opponent on the court. However, it seemed as though one of the most valuable skills a player could learn was the ability to coach others on playing the sport with passion while simultaneously encouraging them to learn about themselves as individuals.

James Bryce, the new women's tennis coach, walked onto JMU's green courts in the summer of 2014. Born and raised in Birmingham, England, Bryce enjoyed coaching instead of playing tennis during his undergraduate years at Samford University, a private college located in the suburbs of Birmingham, Alabama. While not at practice, Bryce assisted at his college coach's night clinics and helped other players work on their skills.

"My junior year of college is when I realized this is what I wanted to do," Bryce said. "I hadn't really thought much about what I wanted to do after college until my coach approached me and said, 'I think this would be a good field for you; I see the passion you have for helping [others].'"

After Bryce graduated from Samford with a bachelor's degree in education, he pursued his master's degree in public administration from Columbus State University in Georgia. While studying for his master's degree, he became the assistant coach of both the men's and women's tennis teams at the university. During his two years at Columbus, he helped both teams compete at National Collegiate Athletic Association postseason tournaments.

After graduating from Columbus State University, Bryce continued to coach other teams along the East Coast. From Saint Leo University in Tampa, Florida, to Mississippi State University, he helped student-athletes improve as individuals and teammates on and off the court.

"One of the things in my coaching philosophy is being able to bring different cultures [and] diverse people together as a group to become one," Bryce said.

When the previous JMU Women's Tennis coach Maria Malerba retired after her 38th year of coaching, the program looked for someone who would help the program continue to flourish. Since Bryce began as a young coach, he became known for helping teams surpass expectations and achieve new records.

"We've got all the resources to give our student-athletes and coaching staff the best success possible," Bryce said. "With us being a fully funded program and the administration that we have, it's a program that has so much potential to move to the next level — to be in the national rankings."

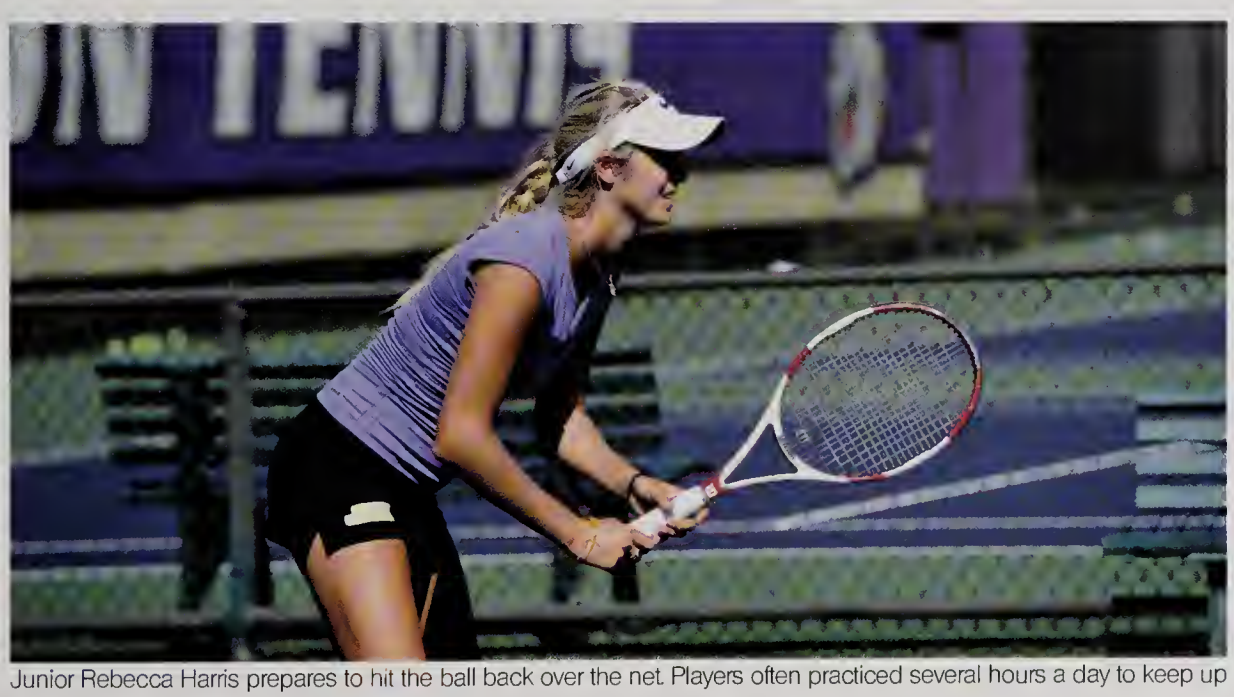
During Bryce's first season, he helped the women's team achieve a 14-8 record. The team also earned fifth in the Colonial Athletic Association tournament, where they advanced to the semifinals and scored a win over the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

After Bryce's exciting first season, the athletic department noticed his dedication to the women's tennis program and its success. Devon Howard, the assistant director of Athletics Communications for women's basketball, field hockey and tennis, stated that she enjoyed working alongside Bryce.

"[Bryce] has a definite direction for the team and where he wants to take them," Howard said. "He's been really been great at helping the girls focus on and off the courts. He wants to make sure that during their time at JMU, they can become the best women they can be."

From the Birmingham across the pond to the one in the United States, head coach James Bryce found his niche in the sports world. He continued to teach others about the racket sport and followed his passion all the way to Harrisonburg.

WORDS | Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao



Junior Rebecca Harris prepares to hit the ball back over the net. Players often practiced several hours a day to keep up with their competitors.

STAYING ON TRACK

Track and field athletes sprint toward success

The university's athletic program encompassed a wide range of sports teams, all of which seemed to display the same strength of will. The 41 women who composed the track and field team competed in various events, coming together to represent JMU. As they strove for athletic and personal growth, the team went the extra mile on and off the track.

During the 2014-2015 season, JMU Track and Field enjoyed individual and collaborative success. Their achievements included earning second place at the Eastern College Athletic Conference as well as winning multiple events and having several finalists at the Colonial Athletic Association's conference championships. According to the team's head coach, Chereé Hicks, these victories set the tone for the upcoming season.

"A lot of great things happened last year," Hicks said. "That gave the team a lot of confidence and a lot of motivation for this year. So where we're at right now in our training ... is that they're highly motivated."

Deana Forbes, a junior history major, was a sprinter and hurdler on the team. Forbes noted that the group's performance during the 2014-2015 season was a highlight of her collegiate athletic career. She attributed this success to both dedicated individuals and devoted coaches.

"I think that giving 100 percent in anything [we] do at practice and encouraging each other while we do that is going to help make a successful team," Forbes said. "Not only that, but our coaches, too, because they put in a lot of work and a lot of time for us."

Hicks explained that although the athletes and coaching staff aimed for athletic excellence, there was great humanity to the spirit that embodied the team.

"I like our team just as young women, just as human beings," Hicks said. "It isn't just about the athleticism."

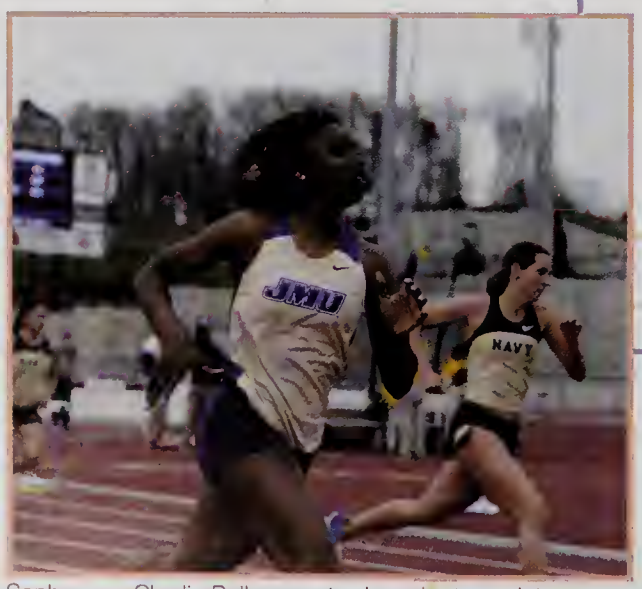
The track and field team was divided into several different groups, including throwers, sprinters, hurdlers and distance runners. However, Hicks noted these divisions did not prevent the team from displaying great solidarity.

"It's real easy to just be stuck in the distance group, it's real easy to just stay within the sprints, hurdles and jumps group, [and] it's real easy to just stay within the throwers group," Hicks said. "But [the team members] don't do that. They actually cross lines; they intermingle. ... And so that provides for the culture to be instilled in them in supporting each other across the board."

Forbes explained that the athletes' dedication to one another translated into life off the track, as well. The team's familial aspect allowed the members to grow alongside one another athletically, academically and personally.

"We always just push each other to be the best in whatever we do," Forbes said.

The track and field team displayed the simultaneous determination and collaboration that defined JMU. The team intended to uphold their standard of excellence as they sprinted into their new season with boldness and resolve.



Sophomore Charlie Bell competes in a shorter sprint around the track during a meet. Bell specialized in 200- and 400-meter dashes.

WORDS | Giuliana Macaluso
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Karen Franz

JMU athletes compete in a hurdles event during a meet. Hurdlers had the ability to leap over obstacles while maintaining a full sprint.



> “I think that giving 100 percent in anything [we] do at practice and encouraging each other while we do that is going to help make a successful team.”



Above: Two JMU runners compete against an opponent during a meet. Members ran on both indoor and outdoor tracks, depending on the season.



Sophomore Aereale Scott runs in full force around the track. Scott mainly competed in short sprints and hurdles.

cradles the ball while runnin
down the field during a gam
against the University of Virg
Gordon was named team
captain for the 2016 season.

ior midfielder Taylor Gress runs down the field during
atch against Liberty University. By the end of the 2015
son, Gress had started 20 games for the Dukes.

ONE TEAM, ONE LOVE

Athletes seek to raise awareness about relationship violence

In May 2010, the lacrosse world was rocked when University of Virginia lacrosse player Yeardley Love was murdered by her boyfriend. In the hope of educating teammates and fellow students about intimate partner violence, three JMU women's lacrosse players joined the One Love Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in Love's memory. The national foundation connected with college campuses to promote change and understanding in an attempt to eradicate the issue.

Hannah Jablonski, a junior computer information systems major and member of the JMU lacrosse team, was Love's distant cousin. Jablonski chose to join the One Love movement because the issue hit close to home.

"This past summer, I wanted to get involved in the foundation, and the staff said the best way is to be trained by a facilitator so we could help run workshops around the college campus," Jablonski said.

In order to gain support and help her team understand the issue, Jablonski reached out to senior international business major Elizabeth Reifsnider and senior sociology major Anne Zabel, both of whom were members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

"[Jablonski] was kind of the inspiration for everything, and she helped us become certified to lead the Escalation workshops," Reifsnider said.

The foundation's Escalation Workshop featured a short film about relationship violence, followed by a team discussion that trained workshop leaders facilitated.

"A member of the One Love Foundation came to JMU during FrOG week for an hourlong training session," Jablonski said. "We watched the film and then discussed questions to talk about with people afterwards and how to help people in those situations."

As certified workshop leaders guiding group conversations, Jablonski, Reifsnider and Zabel sought to educate their teammates about unhealthy relationships and how to identify the warning signs for partner abuse prevention.

"We held a workshop for my team, and I think everyone was shocked because they weren't expecting the big impact that the movie had," Jablonski said. "It made people tear up sometimes, and I think it allowed everyone to become more aware."

Noticing how the film influenced the team to take action and spread awareness, Zabel became motivated to share this workshop experience with all JMU students.

"I reached out to my SAAC adviser to talk about possibly running a workshop for everybody, not just athletes," Zabel said. "I wanted people to be there to learn more about signs and awareness of relationship abuse because the whole population of our campus needs to know about it."

The team also participated in Yards For Yeardley, a national campaign that encouraged college sports teams to run one million yards in one month in Love's honor.

"Last year, Yards for Yeardley was a new way to spread awareness," Jablonski said. "So far, we've run 1,284,282 yards for it."

The players believed that being involved in the national program would inspire other members of the university to "Be the Change" and join the movement to promote understanding of this issue.

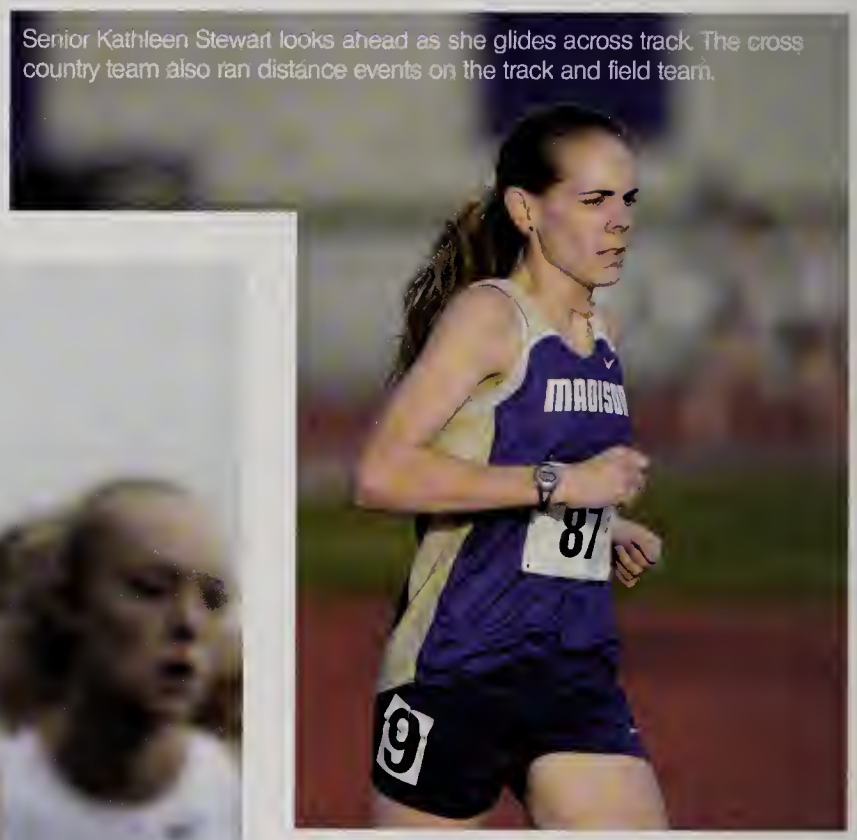
"After we hold the workshop for the entire campus, I'm hoping that we can have something for Yards for Yeardley for everyone, too, or maybe a fundraiser to spread awareness," Zabel said. "The little things can go a long way."

Together, these teammates proved that even a seemingly small effort could make a substantial difference in the community.

| Jillian Wright
| JMU Athletics Communications
| Alexandra Rathjens

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

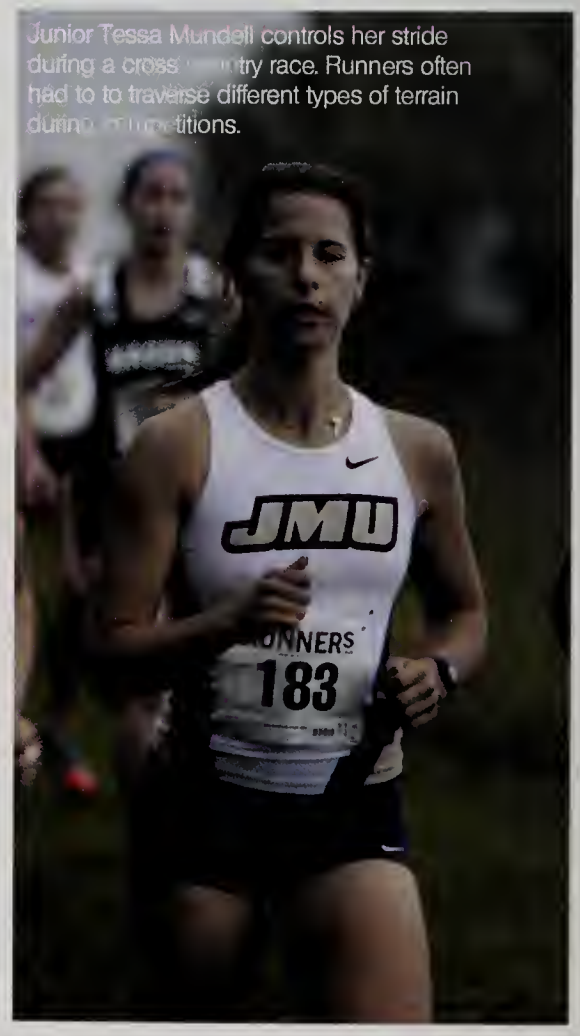
Cross country runners support each other at the finish line



Senior Kathleen Stewart looks ahead as she glides across track. The cross country team also ran distance events on the track and field team.



nior Carol Strock maintains concentration in a pack of runners. Head ch David Rinker helped runners such as Strock improve.



Junior Tessa Mundell controls her stride during a cross country race. Runners often had to to traverse different types of terrain during competitions.



JMU Cross Country athletes speed across a field during a race. The team prepared for competitions at locations throughout Virginia.

As soon as the gun fired, they were off, running up and down hills and through the mud and water. The women's cross country team did not seem to stop for anything, earning second place at the Eastern College Athletic Conference championship on Nov. 21, 2015. In preparation for this win, the team practiced all season—rain or shine, warm or cold—to come out on top. The team traveled all over Virginia to practice.

Senior graphic design major Jenna Flickinger's favorite place to exercise was a location known as "The Gorge."

"We run through the woods with eight creeks," Flickinger said. "It's a beautiful run, and it's nice to have different scenery. It makes it more fun and really breaks up the run."

Not only did this hard work pay off at the ECAC championship, but it also helped the team bring home second place in their largest and most competitive meet of the year in Louisville, Kentucky.

"Our team was put in a bad position at the starting line, causing most of us to run into a fence on the course about [half of a] mile in," freshman health sciences major Erin Saunders said.

Running in such races was a learning experience that allowed the team to gain some insight.

> "The experience taught us important lessons about staying positive and controlling the things we can and letting the rest go."

"The experience taught us important lessons about staying positive and controlling the things we can and letting the rest go," Saunders said.

Often in meets, head coach David Rinker gave the athletes a "starting position," or a strategy that prevented the team members from falling behind in the pack of runners.

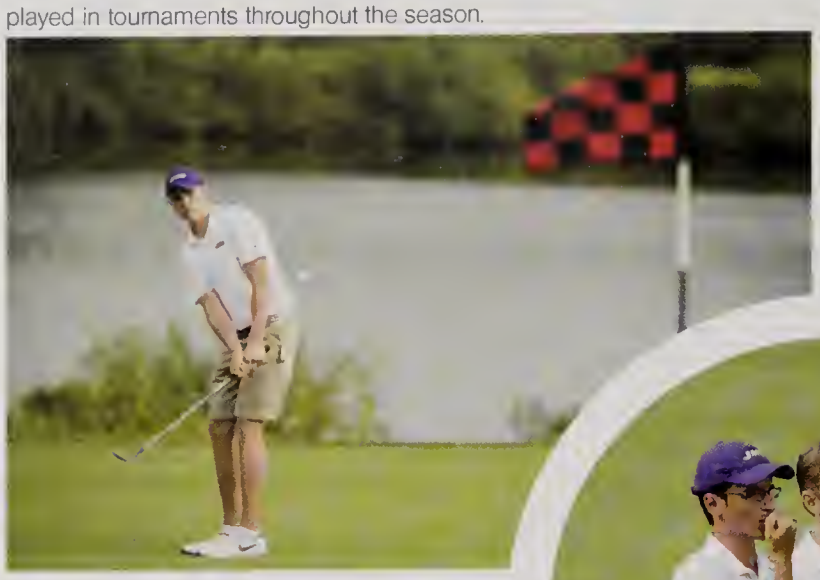
The bigger the crowd, the more difficult it could be for the teammates to tell where they were in relation to other runners. Some on the team felt that this was true for their meet in Charleston, South Carolina, on Oct. 31, 2015.

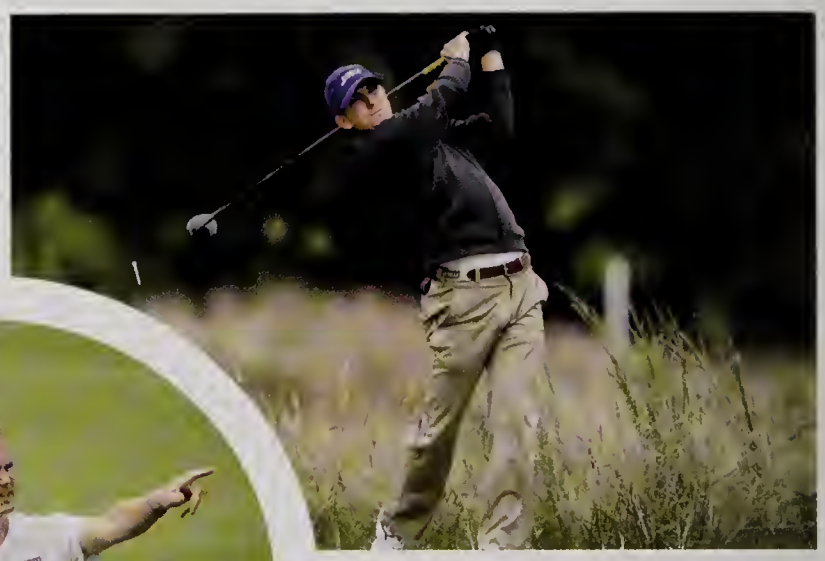
"The entire course was through a wooded area, and at times, I found myself in a gap between groups," junior nursing major Carol Strock said. "Although it was hard, I ended up running my personal best and placed fourth overall with a [personal record] of [20 minutes and 53 seconds], which was very exciting to me."

As the women crossed the finish line after miles of running, they knew there would be 19 girls supporting them at the end of the course, no matter the outcome of the race.

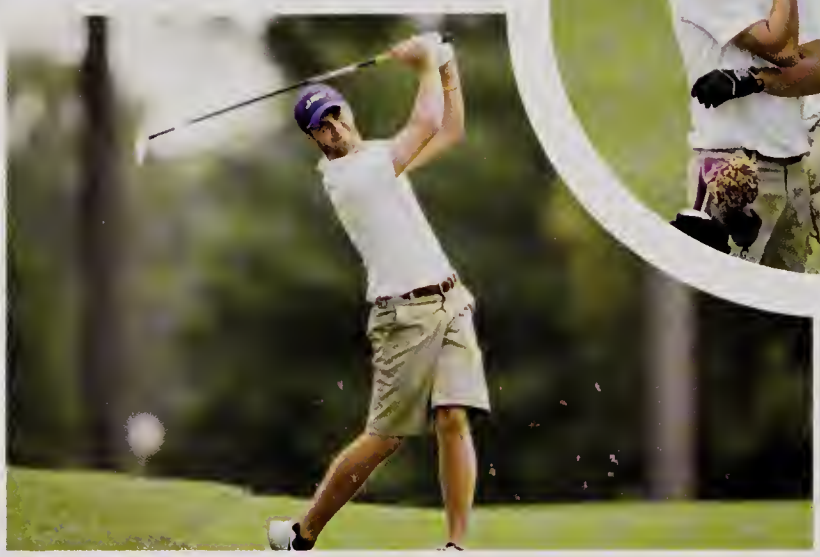
WORDS | Samantha Swingle
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

Members of the men's golf team show off their skills on the green. The men played in tournaments throughout the season.

















DRIVING DOWN THE GREEN

Men's golf strives toward success

Balancing mind and matter, the JMU men's golf team stepped onto the green with focus and strategy.

"I try [to] focus on one thing, like how nice the weather is or that I am getting to do what I [have] dreamed of ever since I was little, so I just enjoy my time out there on the course," senior finance major Christopher Kapsak said.

With two wins, two second-place victories and a fourth-place mention, the men's golf team managed to exemplify a passion for excellence that inspired both their coaches and spectators.

"We are starting to work with the [The First Tee of Harrisonburg] program, which teaches life skills and leadership through golf," head coach Jeffrey Forbes said.

In addition to spending time building community and studying, these student-athletes had to participate in 20 hours of mandatory practice per week.

"Sometimes you just can't balance," Kapsak said. "You have to prioritize your schoolwork and golf. The golf is always mandatory, so sometimes not-as-important schoolwork just can't get done. However, it is tough for me to just not do work, so sometimes it has resulted in about four hours of sleep on average every night while in season."

However, the sleepless nights and long hours spent at practices and tournaments only fostered close relationships between team members.

"My teammates and I are all very close despite our completely different culture and ethnic backgrounds," Kapsak said. "We have to spend upwards of 40 hours a week together, and we all work toward common goals, so it is almost impossible not to be close."

In addition to the daily practices during tournament season, the off-season was just as time consuming as the players focused on their health and wellness.

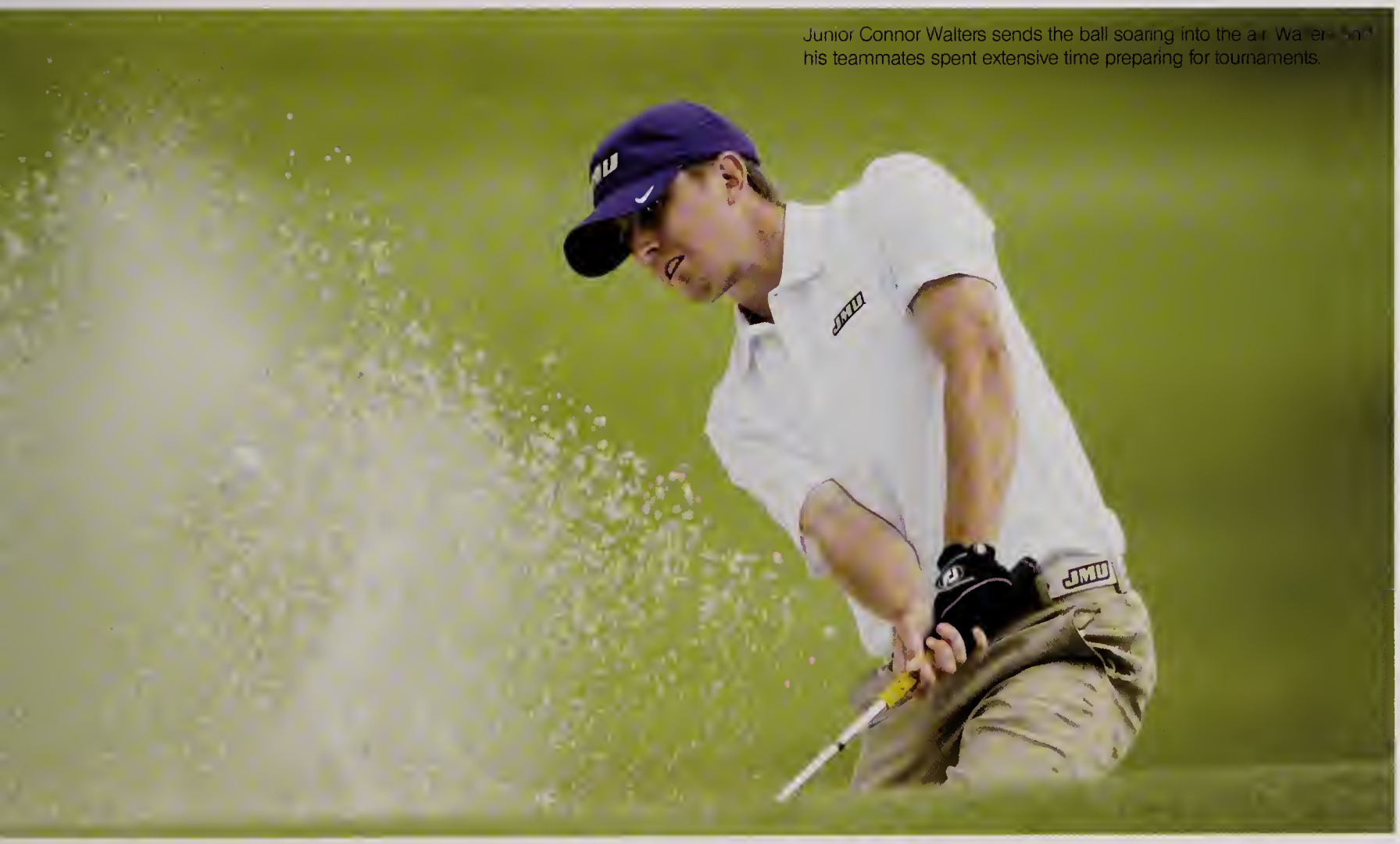
"In our off-season, we concentrate on getting stronger in the weight room and increasing flexibility with yoga," Forbes said. "We have limited skill instruction during this time but have meetings with the players and our sports psychologist."

Despite the time commitments and mental strains, these young men chose to persevere rather than have a less demanding academic career.

"Honestly, I wouldn't trade this experience for the world. Most of my friends are athletes and people I would have never met if it weren't for being on the team," Kapsak said. "It does make life very hectic every day of the week for the entire semester, but I enjoy being busy and being productive just about every minute of the day."

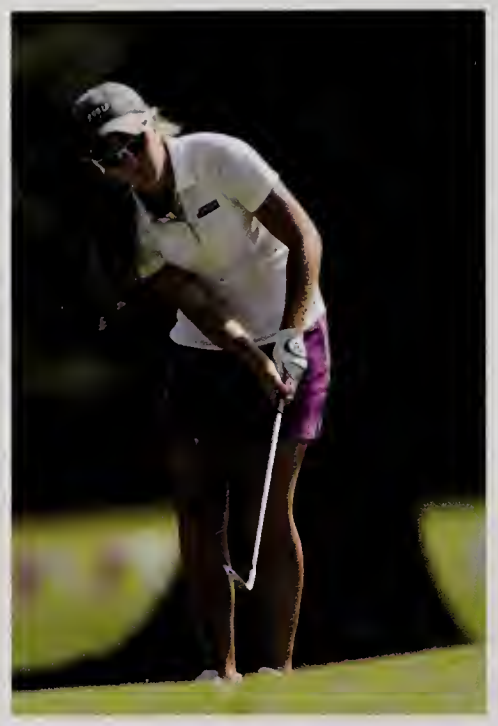
Life as a part of the men's golf team provided members with the opportunity to learn valuable life skills, including the ability to effectively balance social, academic and athletic commitments while gaining experience in the sport they loved.

AUTHOR | Hannah Beverage
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl



Junior Connor Walters sends the ball soaring into the air. Walters and his teammates spent extensive time preparing for tournaments.











Members of the women's golf team exhibit determination on the course. These athletes were active both on campus and in the Harrisonburg community.

REACHING PAR-FECTION

Women's Golf fosters close friendships on and off the green

The JMU women's golf team was about as familial as they came. Composed of eight members, each teammate's influence kept the others on top of their game.

"With only eight girls, you have to be accountable for your work," sophomore sports and recreation management major Maddisen Cox said. "They definitely push you to work harder."

Five team members would travel to each tournament at a time.

"As with any family, cliques form, but everyone comes back together at the end of the day and [is] still a family," head coach Sarah Sargent said.

> "It is a really special place to be, not only for the coach but for the players as well."

Sargent had been a part of the women's golf program for two years, and seemed to take pride in her coaching position.

"[Working at JMU] has been the greatest thing," Sargent said. "It is a really special place to be, not only for the coach but for the players, as well."

While the team was not where they would have liked to have been after their 2015 season, Cox had high hopes for the future.

"I really think that by the time I am a senior, our team could make a run for the [National Collegiate Athletic Association] championships," Cox said.

Coach Sargent also had goals for the women of the team.

"The girls know that we are not where we need to be in the ranks, but they are working that much harder at practice," Sargent said. "I think it is realistic that they could make it to the championship in two years."

When the team was not practicing and working toward the championship, they spent time working with the Harrisonburg chapter of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. The team members also worked closely with teenage female golf players, helping them improve their game and giving them something to which they could aspire.

"I am not sure if the players realize it, but these teenage girls really look up to them for advice on how to improve their game," Sargent said. "It is great that this program gives them a perspective on junior golf."

Cox had a similarly positive opinion of the women's golf program.

"I got started playing [golf] late in my teen years, so seeing all these young girls come out and start golf so early is really exciting," Cox said. "I think they really look up to us."

While the team continued to practice hard and climb in the ranks, these student-athletes learned the valuable lesson that family can be extended to include the community as a whole.

WORDS | Hannah Adams
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

FIGHT FOR GLORY

Football program sets new records

WORDS | Kathaleen Maniatakis
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photgraphy Department
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer

nior Khalid Abdullah leads the team onto the field. The fans cheere
the Dukes when they emerged from the tunnel.



Students cheer and show their JMU spirit on the Quad during ESPN College GameDay. Students camped out on the Quad the night before the segment to get close to the cameras in the morning.



The ESPN College GameDay commentators sit before a crowd of students on Main Campus. JMU Football played against the University of Richmond during the homecoming game.



Surrounded by other students, the Marching Royal Dukes crowd around the ESPN College GameDay bus in anticipation of the network's arrival. The MRDs performed for students during the day.

Two minutes and four seconds remained on the clock. With a score of 45-41, James Madison University was trailing Football Bowl Subdivision foe Southern Methodist University in a game in which every possession mattered. During this Saturday night game on Sept. 26, 2015, the Dukes barreled down the field, looking to make one last attempt at glory. Fans felt their hearts in the pits of their stomachs as a tangible uncertainty filled the Texas air. Only 28 seconds were left on the clock. The pigskin glided across the fingertips of JMU quarterback and senior public policy and administration major Lavaedeay "Vad" Lee, soaring 17 yards until it was pulled down into the arms of wide receiver and sophomore management major John Miller.

Touchdown: JMU.

The relentless performance made JMU record books, with Lee alone accumulating 565 yards of total offense, breaking his previously set school record of 478 yards. JMU Hall of Fame running back Warren Marshall once held this single game record.

"It was like nothing I've ever seen before," senior communications major Allison Gotthold said. "I've been watching college football for a long time, and I've never seen a game played like that."

It appeared that the Dukes were making the end zone their second home, and the teams gained national attention.

ESPN caught the purple and gold fever, selecting Lee as the star of SportsCenter's "Big Man on Campus" just two days after the game. He was the first Football Championship Subdivision player to appear on the segment. During the program, ESPN reporter Jeannine Edwards regarded Lee as "humble, warm and genuine," while on the field Lee was seen as a tough and unbeatable force.

Lee was at the helm of one of the most explosive offenses the JMU football program had ever seen. The offense averaged around two minutes per drive and were deadly both in the air and on the ground. After the first seven games, JMU outscored opponents 341-147, paving the way for a record 7-0 undefeated start to the 2015 season.

"It goes back to me being blessed to be here," Lee said. "Just having the opportunity to be with these guys every week and get better in the off-season and all the things that we do together as a team … I just credit my team and my coaches for that."

The Dukes capped off their seven-game win streak with a 51-0 shutout against Elon University Phoenix on the road. This historic Saturday marked the largest margin of victory in JMU Football history.

During that same weekend, several teams lost their games, producing a poor FBS slate for the following week. JMU's next opponent and in-state FCS rival, the University of Richmond, won their game, remaining undefeated in the Colonial Athletic Association.

After students caught word of an ESPN program picking up on the Dukes' success, they rallied for JMU through social media, tweeting and sharing online posts to promote the university and their winning football team. The icing on the cake came when Lee Fitting, a producer at ESPN, announced that JMU was going to experience one of the highest college football honors ever to grace the Quad: ESPN's College GameDay.

"This year, I have noticed more excitement surrounding football games and a much higher attendance, and I think that has a large impact on how the team performs," senior JMU cheerleader and health sciences major Christina Thoppil said. "Each week seemed more and more surreal, and we were so proud of how well the team was doing. They were finally getting the recognition that they had deserved, and that idea was solidified when College GameDay decided to come to JMU."

On Oct. 24, 2015, the stage was set for one of the greatest moments in the university's history. While the football program initially garnered the ESPN show's attention, the pregame gathering offered students, alumni, friends and family a chance to celebrate the entire JMU community. The 2015 homecoming game sold all 26,000 tickets just hours after the announcement.

Within the first few hours of homecoming weekend, a sea of purple and gold adorned the Quad, and the JMU community cheered from sunset to sunrise. While the cameras were rolling, roughly 1.6 million television sets tuned into the GameDay broadcast on ESPN.

"I had a smile on my face the whole time because of all the excitement from the fans," Thoppil said. "You couldn't have dreamed of a better atmosphere. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget, and I am proud to say I am a student at JMU."

College GameDay host Desmond Howard described the crowd on his Twitter account as the "best @CollegeGameDay crowd EVER!" Die-hard JMU fans believed that day to be one for the ages. While the semitrailer trucks hauled tons of production equipment down I-81 after the show, the unity that the day brought to JMU would never be forgotten, just like the historic 7-0 streak that ignited it all.

JUST FOR KICKS

Dance team excels on and off the field

I Erin Flynn
PHOTOS I Courtesy of Chase Maszle
DESIGN I Nguyen Cao and Leah Jacobs



The Dukettes pump up the crowd at ESPN College GameDay on campus.
Many believed the Dukettes were a force of a school spirit and enthusiasm



Sophomore Sigourney McGovern joins her team on the Quad. The Dukettes participated in ESPN College GameDay, bringing energy to the Quad.

Freshman Melissa Calangi smiles at the camera while dancing at ESPN College GameDay. The Dukettes felt that their team was their JMU family.



Football games were not just about the amount of touchdowns JMU achieved, but also about the showstopping performances from JMU's dance team, the Dukettes.

According to head coach Julia Urban, the Dukettes began as a dance and spirit program under the athletics department and later became part of the School of Music, where students could join the team and receive academic credit. The team was also considered to be part of the Marching Royal Dukes.

"Overall, the Dukettes are growing every year," Urban said. "The caliber of the dancers gets stronger with each year and, in turn, our performances increase in difficulty, and the team gets more impressive with every new season. Every year, we try to add more to our performance repertoire and expand our connections with different organizations."

Urban was part of the Dukettes for a long time, first as a dancer and later as an assistant coach, eventually becoming the program's head coach in 2012.

"One of my favorite parts of coaching this team is witnessing the tremendous growth of success and talent over the years," Urban said. "I am beyond proud of my dancers, and I am so impressed by the people they have become. The Dukettes are fortunate to have many wonderful experiences … and I feel so lucky that I am able to be a part of this fantastic program."

Junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Paige Reaman said that one of her favorite parts about being a Dukette was supporting her school.

"Putting on that uniform and wearing our team jacket puts the biggest smile on my face," Reaman said. "Supporting my school and doing what I love – [what] could be better?"

Reaman also viewed the Dukettes as her second family and loved the memories this community provided, which began as she transitioned into the JMU community.

"I had a wonderful support system by my side and for that, I am eternally blessed," Reaman said. "These people are going to be my bridesmaids. We spend so much time together and endure some pretty incredible experiences together."

Bethany Johnson, a senior media arts and design and communication studies double major and a captain of the Dukettes, agreed that the Dukettes family was one of her favorite aspects of being on the team.

"One of the most rewarding parts about being a Dukette throughout the years are the friendships I've made and the



Junior Abagail Pierro dances alonside her teammates during homecoming weekend. The Dukettes danced at many major on-campus events to bring an element of JMU pride to the atmosphere.

memories I have made with all of the amazing individuals on my team," Johnson said. "Each individual is so strong, compassionate and dedicated, both inside of practice and in the classroom."

Johnson also loved the events the team experienced together. Of all the performances in which Johnson participated, her favorite was the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2013.

"Once we arrived in New York City, the excitement was constant," Johnson said. "The night before our Thursday morning performance, we slept from 10:00 p.m. to midnight and woke up to head out to our practice performance at 2:00 a.m. on the streets of [New York City] in Herald Square. I would describe this entire performance as extremely freezing yet surreal at the same time, filled with constant excitement, passion for what we do and appreciation for the opportunity."

Reaman's favorite Dukette memory was winning the National Dance Alliance championship in April 2015.

"We are so excited to have brought our program to a new level and let the world know the name 'James Madison University,'" Reaman said. "We really came together during this time, and this atmosphere has continued throughout this current school year. The feelings were indescribable."

Along with countless memories, being a Dukette came with many life lessons.

"The most important thing I have learned from being a Dukette is to always find the positive in situations," Johnson said. "For example, it was pouring rain at a home football game two years ago, and our entire team got completely drenched during our pregame performance right before kickoff. Yet, the people surrounding me made me see the [hilarity] of the situation, and it was one of my favorite memories from each football season."

For Reaman, it was impossible to imagine her college experience without the Dukettes.

"This program has really made my life special," Reaman said. "Through any frustrations, struggles or problems, we get through things as a team, and I know I'm a stronger person because of it."

The Dukettes not only made an impact on the members of the Harrisonburg community, but also served as a means of forming friendships that would last a lifetime.

CHEER WE GO

JMU cheerleading takes school spirit to the next level

The 2016 cheerleading season started off strong with a significant, hard-earned accomplishment. With an average of 19 practice hours per week, JMU's squad worked hard to earn a Gold Bid—the highest possible—to the 2016 National Cheerleading and Dance Association collegiate championships.

"Hearing that we got that bid was crazy," sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major Jennie Verive said. "It's just a really cool feeling to have something pay off when you work that hard for it."

Competition season consisted of five months of practice during which the student-athletes trained multiple days each week to achieve a flawless two minutes, 30 seconds performance. Regular practices and supplementary preparation ensured that the squad performed at their best. The team spent time with athletic trainers to work on strength and agility and took part in private practices to sharpen their skills. Mandatory weightlifting sessions with the JMU Strength and Conditioning staff also helped the squad improve their muscular endurance and strength.

Head coach Kelly Moore added the extra push the squad needed to hit their mark.

"My coach is by far the most organized coach I've ever had the pleasure of working with," junior communications major Brigham Shellenberger said. "I've been at over five different cheerleading programs, and I can honestly say I am extremely impressed with the way Coach Kelly runs practices. She pushes us when she needs to and knows when we need a rest."

With all of the time spent pursuing their goals, it sometimes seemed difficult for the dedicated athletes to get their rest and make time for academics.

"It's a struggle, but mainly I've been staying up late almost every night to be able to do my schoolwork," Shellenberger said. "During the middle and end of a semester, I normally only get about four hours of sleep a night, every night."

These student-athletes also made time for community outreach. The squad hosted a youth cheer clinic in February 2016 that allowed attendees to put their new skills into action during halftime at a women's basketball game.

Despite various time commitments, these cheerleaders agreed that time spent on the team was worthwhile.

"I'm very proud to wear my JMU cheer wear around campus," Shellenberger said. "I came to college to cheer. Cheer is my passion and what I love to do. I mean, come on, I get to hang around hot girls and do flips all day."

The varsity cheerleading team embodied JMU's school spirit by representing the Dukes with energy and determination. Whether performing in front of thousands of fans or putting in extra time with a trainer, the squad was prepared to both compete at a high level and boost university morale.

WRITER | Hannah Beverage
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs

Junior Taylor Hoover jumps into the air during a routine. The team worked with athletic trainers to strengthen their abilities.

Senior Christina Thoppil performs a stunt. Hard work and dedication allowed the squad to gain mastery over their skills.



Members of the cheerleading squad complete a build. The team added pep and spirit to sporting events.

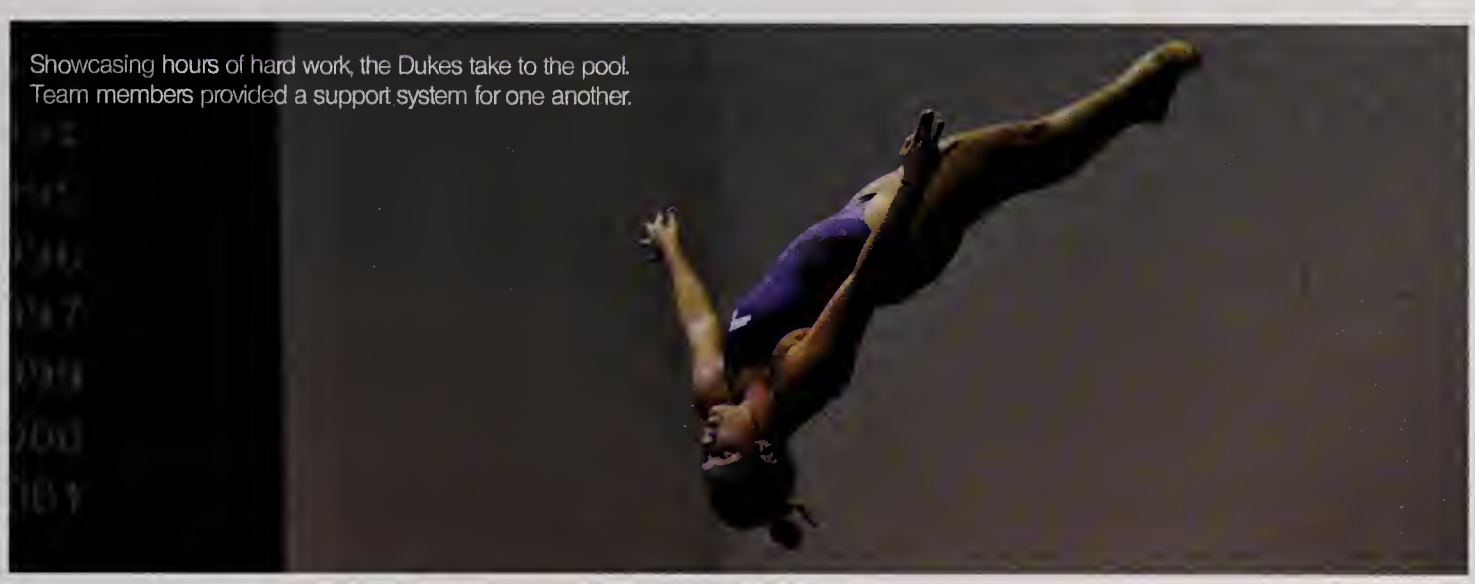


Poised and ready, swimmers prepare to begin their race. The Dukes fostered positivity within their team.

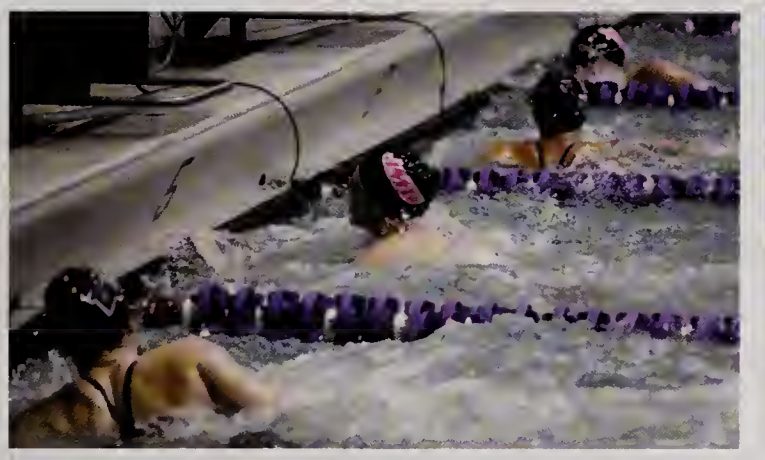
Tucking her legs in to her chest, a member of JMU's swim and dive team flips into the water. The Dukes faced off against a variety of universities at their competitions.

AQUA DUKES

Swim and dive takes the plunge for victory



Showcasing hours of hard work, the Dukes take to the pool. Team members provided a support system for one another.





Contagious energy and hard work defined the JMU women's swim and dive team. The senior athletes strove to make the team stronger by the time they were due to graduate in May, making the 2015 season different from any other.

In order to minimize the chance of a power struggle on the team, senior members helped their teammates focus on relieving stress by setting team objectives. However, practicing 20 hours a week and sometimes meeting twice a day could prove to be a demanding task. The team excelled not only in the pool, but in the classroom, as well.

"Being pushed to my limits by these incredible girls at practice was always the best part of my day, where I can really tap into a new part of me," senior kinesiology major Amanda Presgraves said.

Presgraves had double hip surgery, which she believed made her more motivated to swim better than ever before.

"Some people thrive on being the best, but I enjoy being motivated by others first," Presgraves said.

At the Colonial Athletic Association Pod Meet on Oct. 30, 2015, the JMU team faced some of their most skilled competitors, including the College of William and Mary, University of Delaware and University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Once one team member swam or dove well during these competitions, the others fed off her success.

This momentum continued throughout the season.

"The best feeling is when you finish a race and touch the wall, knowing that your team is proud of you," sophomore interdisciplinary liberal studies major Katherine Parker said. "Then you can be proud of yourself, regardless of what time you got."

Bonding outside of the pool, eating breakfast and dinner together, and participating in positive team-building exercises were just a few of the activities in which these athletes took part together. In one activity called "fishbowl," team members wrote shoutouts to each other when they noticed someone doing well in the pool. Then, every Saturday morning, the team read the shoutouts aloud, recognizing certain team members for their hard work.

"I am amazed how a diverse group of girls can click well together and work well as a unit with no disconnect," Parker said.

This positive atmosphere contributed greatly to the team's overall success.

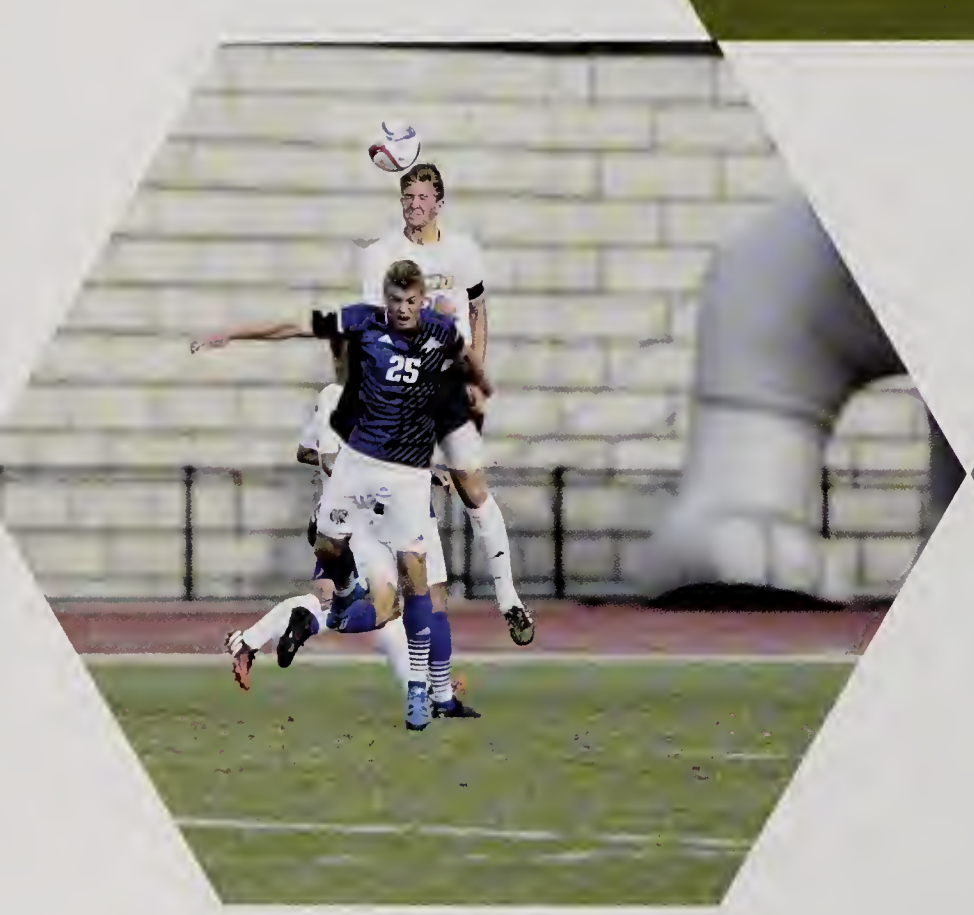
"This has been the most powerful year as a team in a long time," Presgraves said.

The women's swim and dive team pushed their bodies to the limit to achieve their goals. It was in the moments when the athletes realized how tired they were that they pushed themselves to go even faster, and achieve more than just wins.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Jacqueline Garcia

Senior Bjarki Adalsteinsson pursues the ball in a game against Drexel University. Adalsteinsson started every game in which he played.





Bjarki Adalsteinsson heads the ball in a game against the University of North Carolina. Adalsteinsson came from Iceland to play for the Dukes.



Senior Kyle Morton defends JMU's goal. Morton displayed a mix of reflex and skill as goalkeeper.

STRIVING FOR THE GOAL

Men's soccer coach aims for greatness

Walking along JMU's campus, it was common to see students holding doors for one another, a professor meeting with a student for coffee or friends making music outside of Carrier Library. The student population had the reputation of fostering a friendly atmosphere. Upon his arrival at JMU in 2015, the men's soccer head coach Thomas Foley identified this as something that stood out to him each day.

"I tried to be consistent with the places I coached, but JMU is special because of its interaction between students and players," Foley said. "Everyone is willing to help students. Professors go out of their way, [and] the housekeepers and other maintenance staff help out the students. There is a level of care that everyone shows."

Foley was once a student-athlete himself, having played goalkeeper for the University of Connecticut. He participated in three National Collegiate Athletic Association tournaments from 1987-1989 and was named All-New England four times.

Prior to JMU, Foley coached for colleges such as the College of the Holy Cross and University of Massachusetts, Lowell. He started coaching at JMU when the soccer team was one of the top 10 in the country. Since the team already had national recognition, Foley knew he could lead them to victory.

Although the Dukes defeated the University of Delaware during their 2014 season to win the Colonial Athletic Association championship, Foley described the first month of the 2015 season as challenging.

"We didn't get the results [we wanted], but we competed 6-1. By the end of September into October, we became very competitive," Foley said. "We qualified for the CAA tournament and made it to the semifinals. We played a challenging out-of-conference schedule against teams like [the University of Virginia] and [the Pennsylvania State University]."

Daniel Roppert, a senior business management and computer information systems double major, agreed that the 2015 season was a rewarding challenge.

"As an athlete, you are never satisfied without winning a title at the end of the season," Roppert said in an email interview. "It was a transition year for the soccer program with a new head coach, and I believe that the team, especially the group of seniors, helps in this phase so that the team can win the CAA title again next year."

Born in Munich, Roppert was named to the Academic All-American team following the 2015 season, which contributed immensely to the Dukes' success. As a senior, Roppert recounted his college experience in a positive light.

"JMU offered the best combination of academic and athletic experience for me, and I am very happy that I made the decision to come to such a great school," Roppert said.

With many returning athletes and only four seniors graduating, Foley had high hopes for the starting months of the 2016 season.

"My goal is to be more competitive in the non-conference schedule, get into the NCAA tournament and use what we started to create here at the end of the season and build upon it," Foley said.

Continuously improving his team, Foley took his role of head coach to another level. His relationship with the players and appreciation for students and faculty around campus contributed to JMU's amicable vibe.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Jacqueline Garcia and Leah Jacobs

CREATING CHAMPIONS

Women's soccer team earns conference title



Facing off against Georgetown University, juniors Allison Bunner and Ashley Herndon sprint down the field. During their practices and games, members of the team grew closer together.

On Nov. 8, 2015, the women's soccer team defeated the College of William and Mary at the Colonial Athletic Association conference championship. The Dukes' 3-2 victory landed them an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. With this win under their cleats, the women's soccer team became an unforgettable force dominating the field.

"I think that we all just feed off of each other's energy," junior kinesiology major Margaret Buxton said. "In the locker room before games, we play loud music and dance and do our chants and cheers and stuff, and it just really gets us hyped up for a win."

However, it was not just the players who were energized for games. Head coach David Lombardo played a vital role in inspiring his athletes to achieve success as on the field and on campus.

"I tell them this all the time — you're in a uniform 24/7," Lombardo said. "The only way you ever get the uniform dirty is when you're on the field. Basically, don't do anything that would bring disparaging light to the program."

These women expressed that the constant support from their coaches and teammates inspired them to adhere to a higher standard of athleticism.

"Our coaches are just so dedicated and motivated that you don't want to let them down," Buxton said. "We work hard for the sister standing next to us, but also the coaches that have pushed us to be where we are today. We owe everything to them."

Lombardo also stressed the importance of giving back to the community through soccer-focused programs.

"We've done a lot of stuff with local youth clubs, like Shenandoah Valley United, [as well as] Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Girl Scouts," Lombardo said. "We've also done clinics at middle and elementary schools to promote athletics among young girls."

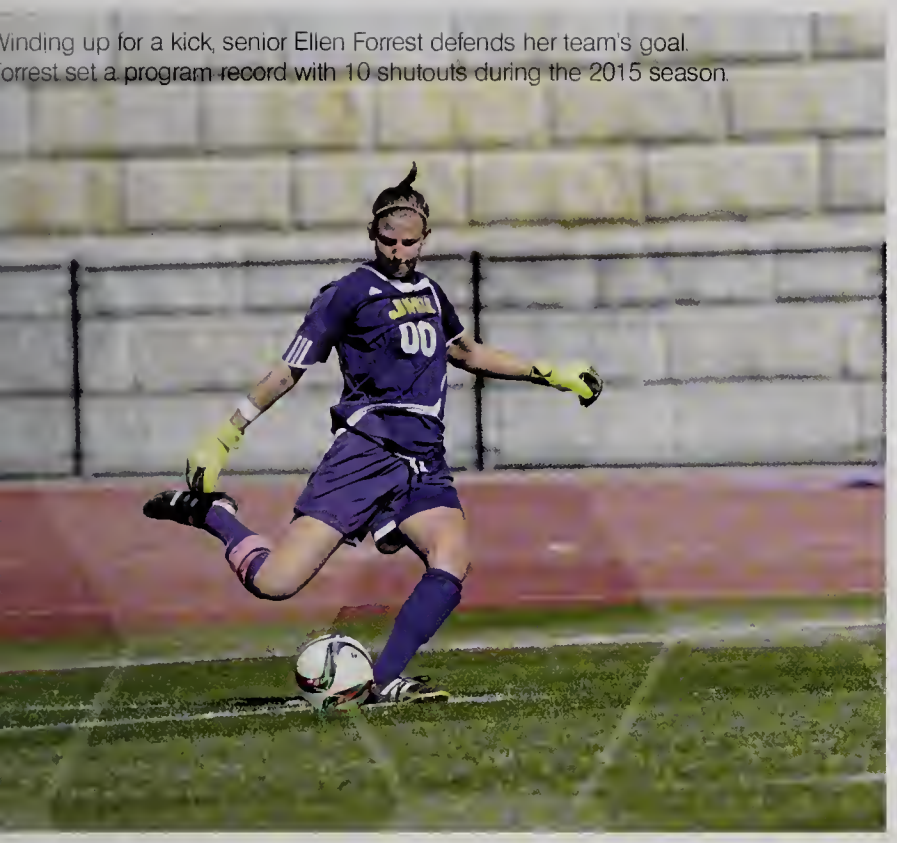
From off-season training to winning the CAA title, the team's drive and dedication to both their sport and their relationships with each other acted as a model for young soccer players.

"Honestly, my teammates are my best friends," said Buxton. "I couldn't imagine being at JMU without this team. Even in the times that we don't have to be together, we are. We live together, we eat together, we workout together on our off days. This team is my family."

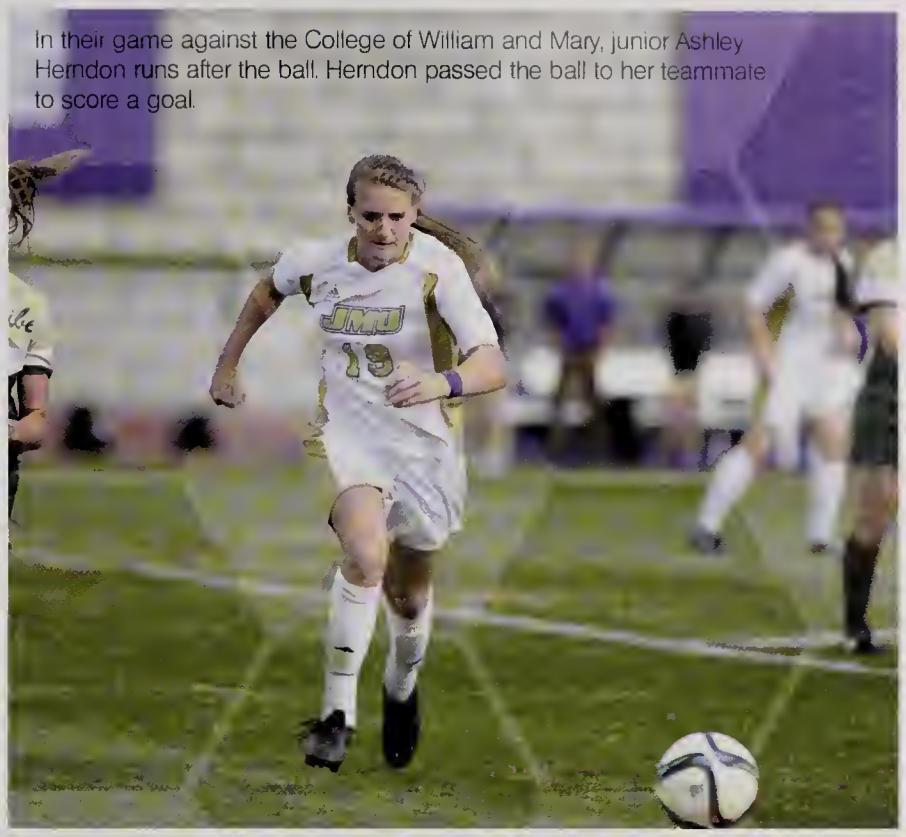
With 14 wins, seven losses and two ties overall, these young women truly kicked it into overdrive during their 2015 season.

WORDS | Hannah Beverage and Paige Lobuts
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

Winding up for a kick, senior Ellen Forrest defends her team's goal. Forrest set a program record with 10 shutouts during the 2015 season.



In their game against the College of William and Mary, junior Ashley Herndon runs after the ball. Herndon passed the ball to her teammate to score a goal.



Goalkeeper Ellen Forrest dives to the turf for a save. Forrest and her teammates represented the university both during games and in their everyday lives at JMU.



Freshman Melissa Wilken displays focus on the field in a game against Lewis and Clark.
Wilken came from South Africa to play on JMU's field hockey team.

TAYLOR'D TO PERFECTION

Field hockey player gives back to her teammates

The JMU field hockey team was a group of women who celebrated and supported each other in their academic and athletic endeavors. In the fall of 2015, senior health sciences major Taylor West closed out her final season on the team with several accomplishments under her belt. Such honors included being named team captain and Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year, as well as finishing fourth on the JMU all-time career points chart.

West explained that she could not have performed to this extent without the help of her teammates.

"Your teammates set you up for success," West said. "This sport isn't about the individual."

West spoke about how she was so proud of all the success the field hockey team achieved in their 2015 season. She was passionate about her team and the endless benefits that being a member gave her. West was one of the driving forces behind the team's success during the 2015 season.

> "She has a very clear presence on the field, as a person and a player."

Head coach Christy Morgan spoke about how West was an inclusive and dependable leader who always wanted to lead by example.

"[West] has really come into her own," Morgan said in a telephone interview. "She has a very clear presence on the field, as a person and a player."

While West's time on the field came to a close, she gained experiences that would guide her through the rest of her life.

"Being a student-athlete has set me up for life skills and shaped me as a person," West said.

Even though West would no longer face opponents on the field, her captivating presence as a successful leader and student in the field hockey program would extend beyond her four years at JMU.

WRITER I Julianne Cavanaugh
PHOTOS I JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN I Casey Dwyer

Senior Taylor West remains determined on the field. West was one of the field hockey team captains.





Left: Senior Meghan Niski hits the ball toward her opponents. Niski was named to the CAA All-Second Team during the 2015 season.

Below: A player jumps to hit the ball during a scrimmage. The women's volleyball team scrimmaged to prepare for big games.

TIPPING IT

Women's Volleyball balances sports and schoolwork

Being a full-time student could be a challenging endeavor, leaving some students with little time to pursue other activities. However, several chose to dedicate their time outside of class to playing a sport. For members of the women's volleyball team, balancing of academics and athletics was an essential aspect of their experience on the team.

"Honestly, being able to balance school work, social life and volleyball at JMU isn't easy. It's tough finding free time to hang out with friends, but when I do, I really try and make the most of it," freshman accounting major and outside hitter Brynnan Recker said in an email interview. "As long as I stay on top of my school work and don't procrastinate, the time management is possible."

Even though learning to manage volleyball, friends and grades could be difficult, these women managed to make the 2015 season a successful one. Five members were named to the Virginia Sports Information Directors All-State Volleyball Team, a feat indicative of their 22 wins throughout the season.

"As a team, we all try to stay as positive as we can and maintain high energy throughout matches and practice," Recker said. "If we lose a point, we all rally around the situation and help pick each other up."

In addition to a winning season, head coach Lauren Steinbrecher won the Colonial Athletic Association Coach of the Year award, and Janey Goodman, a junior kinesiology major and right side hitter, won the CAA Player of the Year award. Goodman also led the conference in both kills and points per game, averaging 4.33 and 5.02, respectively.

"We train to be the best team that we can be, as well as the best individual players that we can be," Steinbrecher said in an email interview. "We work hard both mentally and physically, and we want to enjoy the process."

Despite any challenges these student-athletes faced when they looked toward the future, all of these efforts seemed to be worth it.

"At the end of the day, I know how the hard work day in and day out will eventually pay off after four years," Vahos said. "Being able to say you had 6 a.m. conditioning is cooler than people think because you get to work hard and get a head start on the day while everyone else is sleeping. You get to represent [JMU] and be held to standards [that] normal students are not."

After an award-winning season, JMU Women's Volleyball finished strong at 22-8. The team's success followed them into the new year as Goodman attended tryouts for the USA Volleyball Women's National Team at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado, representing the university with the skill and dedication she had gained during her time as Duke.

WORDS | Hannah Adams and Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs







Left: Niski works on her passing skills during a practice. The team did drills to work on skills that were necessary for success.
Above: The women celebrate after scoring against their opponent. Volleyball members would often cheer after each point they scored together.
Right: Junior Janey Goodman passes the ball to her teammates during a game. Goodman was named to the CAA All-First Team during the 2015 season.

NOTHING BUT NET

Men's Basketball creates a spirited atmosphere

For many students, JMU basketball games were an essential aspect of the Duke Dog experience. Decked out in purple and gold, fans crowded the Convocation Center to cheer on the team, some equipped with large cardboard cutouts and signs to distract the opposing team during free throws. The JMU Pep Band's upbeat encouragement at every home game added to this atmosphere of school spirit.

"The band is psycho; that's just how it is," senior mathematics major and trombone player Brett Peat said. "We do our best to be as crazy as possible. We always try to inspire people to feel like it's okay to yell and scream for the team."

Alexandra McGill, a freshman economics major, also enjoyed this vibrant Convo environment as she cheered the Dukes on toward victory.

"I love the JMU basketball games," McGill said. "I think the atmosphere is really supportive, and you can really get the sense of JMU pride."

> "I think the atmosphere is really supportive, and you can really get the sense of JMU pride."

Under head coach Matthew Brady's leadership, the men's basketball team concluded their 2015 season 19-24, with a four-way tie at the Colonial Athletic Association regular season championship.

The Dukes persevered during their 2016 season with two wins in overtime against Hofstra University, to whom they had lost in the quarterfinals of the CAA tournament in 2015.

Peat, who attended home games regularly as a member of the pep band, recognized that the team displayed promise of achieving the conference title.

"They have all the talent in the world. The biggest thing [they] need to work on is consistency of execution," Peat said. "We easily have the potential to win the conference if they play the way I know they can."

Ronald "Ron" Curry, a senior sport and recreation management major, served as a guard for the team and was named CAA Player of the Week in December 2015.

"[Curry] is putting the team on his back and kind of taking lead," McGill said. "I think if they continue at this fast pace, a championship will definitely be in their future."

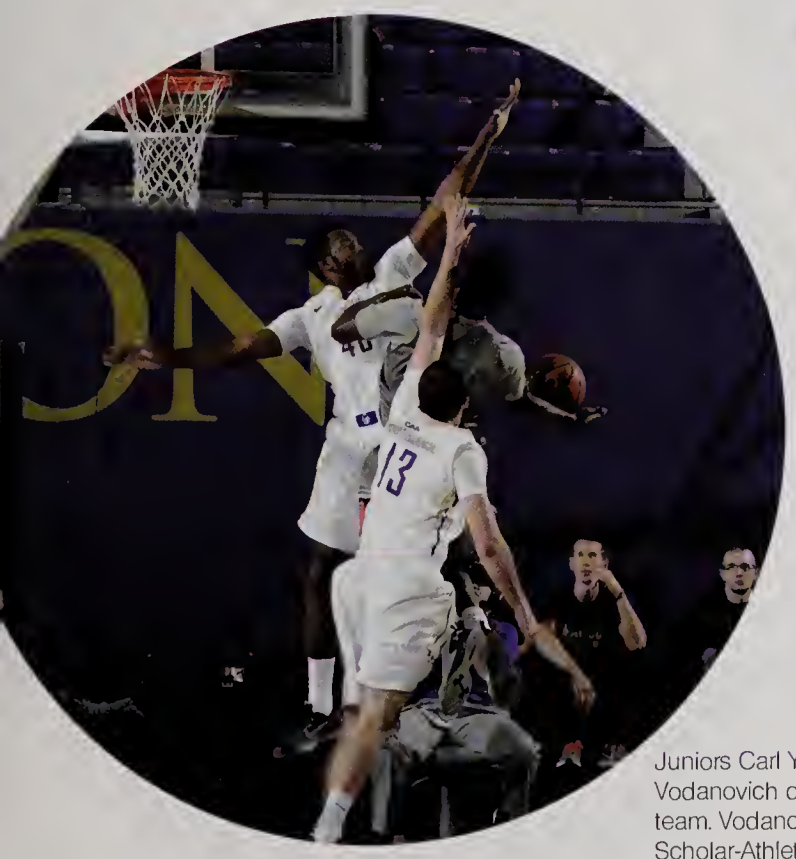
With the applause of hundreds of Dukes fans filling the air around them, the "Brady Bunch," as the team was commonly called, seemed to be well on their way toward a victorious 2016 season.

WORDS | Michelle Criqui
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

Senior Ronald Curry shoots for the basket. The Dukes defeated Western Michigan University 63-57 during this game.



Junior Carl Yohanny Dalembert dribbles the ball past the defense. Despite missing the first two games of the season due to an injury, Dalembert started in 19 out of 20 games after returning to the court.





Juniors Carl Yohanny Dalembert and Thomas Vodanovich defend their basket against the opposing team. Vodanovich won the JMU Athletics Director Scholar-Athlete Award during the 2015-2016 season.





Above: Senior Ashley Perez leaps into the air as she takes a shot. As a guard, Perez was often a crucial component of the team's offensive strategy.

Left: Senior Angela Mickens passes the ball on the court. Mickens hailed from Staunton, Virginia.

Below: Perez plays offense in a game against Liberty University. Perez received the Preseason All-CAA Honorable Mention during her senior year.



HIGH HOOPS

Women's Basketball dominates the court

A jump shot seemed impossible, a layup difficult and a v-cut reserved for the professionals. These were common perceptions of a beginner on the basketball court. The initial butterflies and hesitation tended to subside as the player became more familiar with her teammates and surroundings. Finally, at the collegiate level, the consistent, dedicated team members of JMU Women's Basketball excelled.

"I started playing ball in seventh grade," Elemy Colome, a freshman who had yet to declare a major, said in an email interview. "I chose to come [to JMU] because of the amazing program. The environment here was so welcoming and fun to be around. The community is amazing."

> "Even though we have faced adversity and setbacks, we have really stayed together as a team."

Colome explained that it was difficult to adjust to her first season on the team. The transition was largely a result of National Collegiate Athletic Association rule changes approved in June 2015. In an effort to speed up the game, the new rules dictated that games would consist of four 10-minute quarters instead of two 20-minute halves. However, instead of making the games go faster, the rule modification seemed to do just the opposite.

Although head coach Kenneth "Kenny" Brooks found this adjustment to be unfavorable, his positive attitude prevailed as he motivated his team for the remainder of the season.

"The season is going well," Brooks said in an email interview. "We are currently in first place, and even though we have faced adversity and setbacks, we have really stayed together as a team. I am extremely proud of this group of young ladies."

Brooks first arrived at JMU as a student-athlete to play for Grice "Lefty" Driesell, a basketball legend who was the only coach to win 100 games at four different colleges: the University of Maryland, Davidson College, Georgia State University and JMU. Brooks contributed to Driesell's coaching success, playing three seasons for the Dukes. During one of these seasons, the Dukes finished first in Colonial Athletic Association regular-season play.

Since Brooks had wanted to become a basketball coach once his athletic career had come to a close, he acquired knowledge from Driesell on how to run a successful basketball program. This expertise eventually helped Brooks lead the Dukes to victory.

For beginner and intermediate basketball players to more experienced athletes, extensive training combined with passion for the game was crucial. Behind the foul line during a free throw, all eyes were on the Duke with the ball in the palms of her hands. Despite the butterflies that could still resurface at the collegiate level, Brooks and his team had faith that they could bring home a "W."

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl and Leah Jacobs

GET OUT OF DODGE

Dodgeball takes the court with new and returning members

At the start of the fall 2015 semester, JMU Club Dodgeball rebuilt their team to make up for six top players who graduated in May of the same year. To revamp the team, the club took on 30 new members, more than they ever had before.

"We've been evaluating and pushing new members to the best of their ability to compete for a top 20 spot," Lindsay Krupa, a junior health services administration major, said.

After transferring from Rowan University in New Jersey, junior mathematics major Mark McGowan decided to try out for the dodgeball team to have fun and meet new people, and he ended up making a top 20 spot.

"I was excited but nervous at the same time because I needed to learn how the team plays as a whole," McGowan said.

The club hosted a home meet, inviting schools from all over the East Coast. This was the first match for many members, but the team used their skills to eliminate opponents and win 3-0.

Earlier in the 2015 season, the club took on what appeared to be their toughest match against University of Maryland, College Park. In their closest match, the Dukes won 3-1. From this victory, the club earned third place in the nation for collegiate dodgeball.

Along with intense practices three times per week to maintain their national ranking, the team also fundraised extensively. Often, they volunteered at track and field and cross country meets, as well as at Gap View Ranch and Kennel. The team also served fellow students at the University Program Board's Late Night Breakfast.

In spring 2016, they planned to travel to Bowling Green State University in Ohio for nationals and host another home meet. Some of the competition the club would face included Central Michigan University and Grand Valley State University.

With both experienced and new members, the team strove to work hard toward a national win for JMU and continue to be one of the top club dodgeball teams in the nation.

WORDS | Samantha Swingle
PHOTOS | Courtesy of The Breeze
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

“The team strove to work hard toward a national win for JMU.”



Club Dodgeball hurtles balls across the gym at their opponents. The team used new and existing skills to advance their ranking.

BEAMING WITH PRIDE

Club Gymnastics takes the floor

The core of any great team dynamic seemed to be strong relationships and open communication. Although participating in a student-run organization could often prove to be difficult, the club gymnastics team appreciated the freedom they had to make the team whatever they wanted it to be.

Hooting and hollering, the teammates applauded each other as they competed in events such as the balance beam. The team displayed love and support for each other as they showcased their skills on different gymnastics apparatuses.

"I've never done gymnastics before," freshman intelligence analysis major Camille Colby said. "So it is really cool to meet people who have done it for years and have them teach me things."

The team's welcoming environment invited anyone who wanted to give the sport a try, regardless of skill level. Club Gymastics' open teaching environment was largely due to the support of upperclassmen on the team.

"The seniors have a tightknit family, and it's something that is passed along year to year," junior sports recreation management major Kellie Hayden said.

Having these close relationships was something on which the team members prided themselves, and allowed all members the opportunity to learn the basics of gymnastics.

"I've learned a lot about myself through being [a part of] a student-led organization," senior math major Brittany French said.

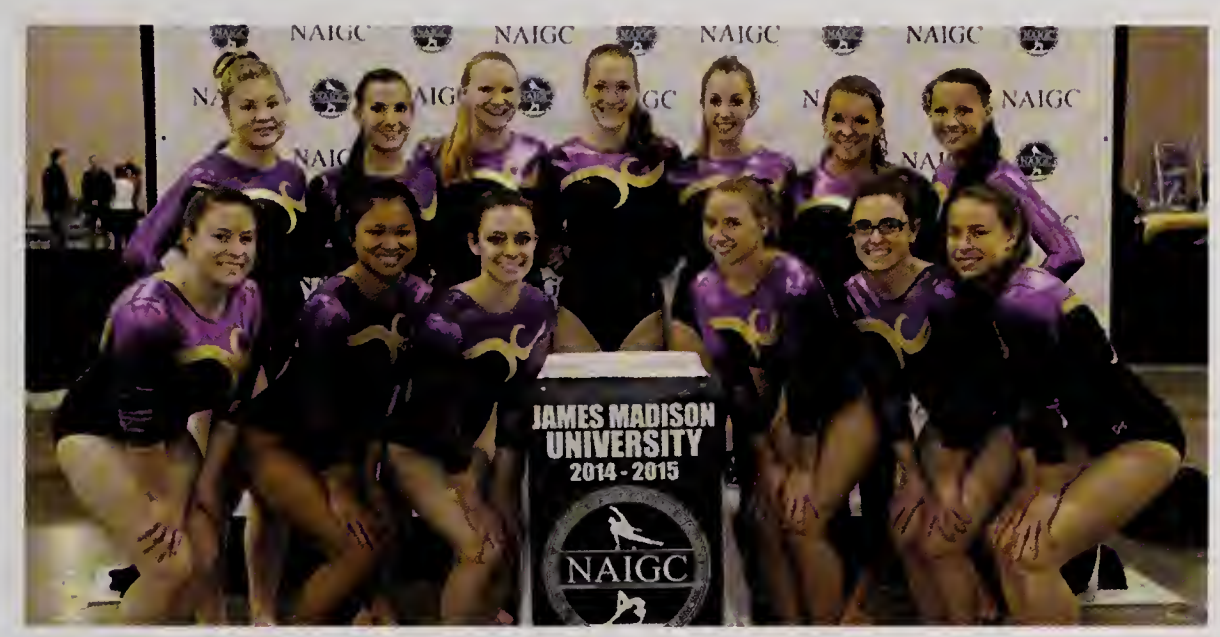
While members of the team gained useful leadership skills by coaching one another, for them, gymnastics was not just about competing. While the team focused was strengthening their skills for events, they were also involved in community service and fundraising.

"Gymnastics gives you something outside of school to focus on and a way to keep things in perspective," French said. "It gives you the chance to balance the important things in your life."

While the club gymnastics team strove to perform to their full potential in competitions, the friendships created between teammates proved to be just as important. This community that the team members formed ensured that they would always have a perfect 10.0.

Words | Julianne Cavanaugh
Photos | Courtesy of Club Gymnastics
Design | Casey Dwyer





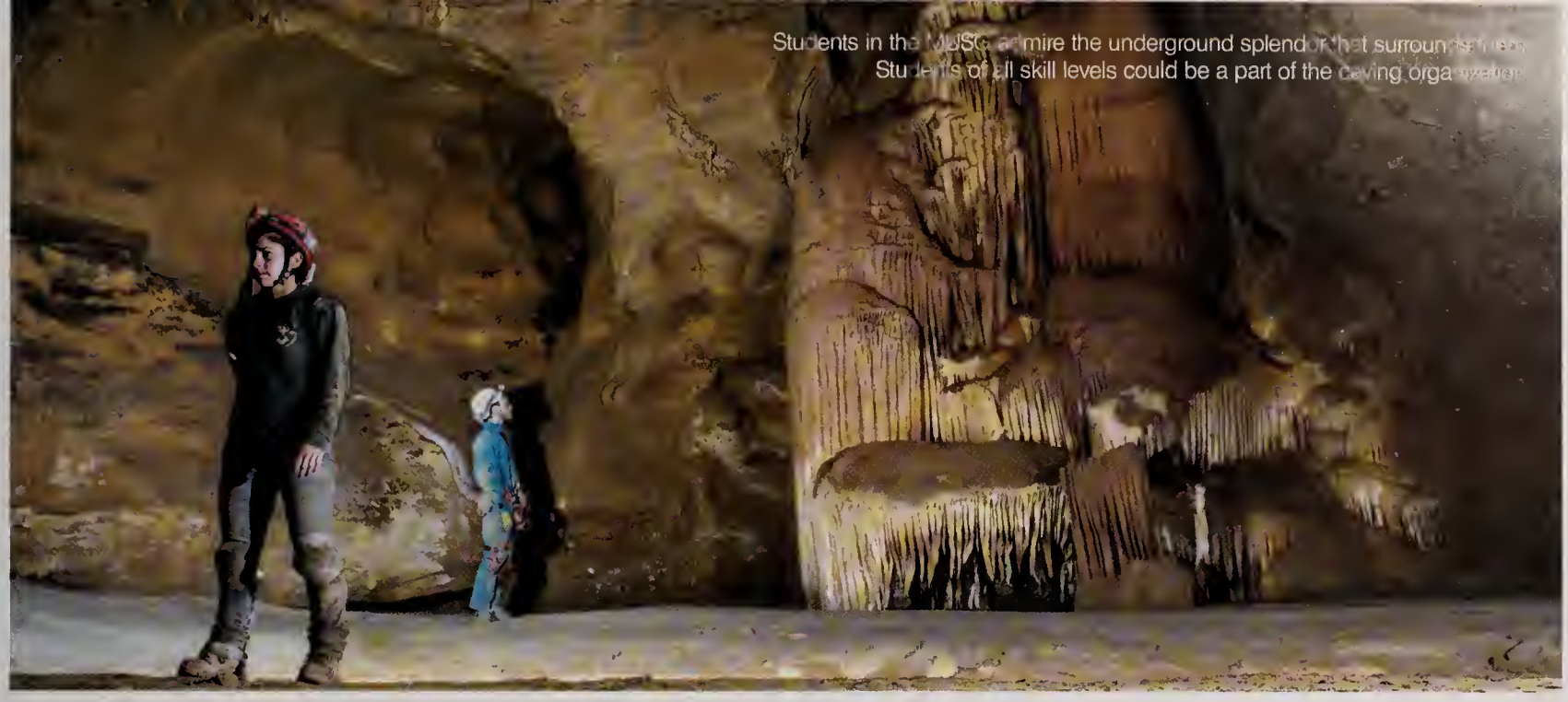
Top: The club gymnastics team poses together in the gym after a workout. The gym had many different appartuses on which members could train before meets.
Bottom: At the 2014-2015 championship meet hosted by the National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs, the Dukes took home a win. Long hours of practice prepared these gymnasts for national competitions.

EXPLORING NEW DEPTHS

Club caving plunges beneath the surface

WORDS | Christiana Freitag
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Nicole Fox
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl

A member of Madison University Student [illegible] beneath the earth. The organization explores caves in Virginia and West Virginia.



Students in the MUSG admire the underground splendor that surrounds them. Students of all skill levels could be a part of the caving organization.

For those eager for an adventurous and physically demanding activity, club caving provided students with just that. Formally called the Madison University Student Grotto, this organization became a tightknit group with around 15 members.

The club traveled weekly to multiple locations in Virginia and West Virginia to explore the top caving sites in the region. Apart from caving, MUSG participants engaged in hiking, camping, rockwall training at UREC and other activities.

Members did not need prior caving experience to participate in this club. Junior nursing major Courtney Ralston, the president of the MUSG, emphasized that she had not been outdoorsy or athletic in any sense before joining the organization.

"[Now,] I have a 'hikers' high,'" Ralston said. "I wish [that] I could live outside."

The organization's vice president, junior health sciences major Olivia Duran, agreed that the club accepted students of all experience levels.

"There are some people that have been caving their whole lives, [and] there are some that have never heard of it before," Duran said.

The MUSG accepted any willing beginners to the activity. To avoid dissuading students who were concerned about the commitment, the club offered a free first trip to those who had never been caving.



MUSG members use flashlights to explore a cave. Caving allowed students to take in a different perspective of the natural world.

Additionally, Duran and Ralston acknowledged the medley of interests among group members.

"Everyone is kind of involved in other [clubs,] too," Duran said. "Everyone comes from somewhere else."

Ralston noted the range of personalities that contributed to the team's camaraderie.

"We used to just be a band of misfits, and we still are misfits, but we're more like a family," Ralston said. "It's not just about caving all the time."

The club eased newcomers into caving by starting with beginner caves and gradually progressing to more advanced explorations. The easier caves typically lasted between three and four hours, while the more difficult ones took close to 13 hours to complete.

These more advanced caves were often a frightening adjustment for new cavers.

"Occasionally, you'll have people freak out ... but you have to get them to back out, or you sit with them while the others advance," Ralston said. "We've had people [who feel] claustrophobic and freak out."

The leaders also faced their own fears as MUSG participants.

"I've freaked out before during vertical climbs because I'm afraid of heights," Duran said. "I didn't really know I was afraid of heights until I started doing [the MUSG]."

However, many members regarded the lesson learned from overcoming fears as invaluable.

"You're going to feel like you got hit with a bag of rocks, but at the end of the day, the sheer amount of beauty in the caves is amazing," Ralston said.

Duran agreed that the positive results of choosing to join the MUSG were immeasurable.

"Nikki Fox, one of our advisers, is always saying, 'Not that many people walk on the moon, but not that many people go underground and go in caves,'" Duran said. "It's something that we can do relatively easily that most people in the world will never see or do."

Caving gave students a means to explore another world and escape high-stress campus life.

RAISING THE BARRE

Madison Dance showcases talent with different dance teams

Dance was an art form that tested the body's limits. Each dance style expressed a specialized physical language that was often representative of its cultural origins.

Madison Dance formed four separate teams that performed various styles, including jazz, contemporary, hip hop and street. Ann Vespestad, a senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major and the president of the club, described the structure of each group.

"Each team has its own choreographer," Vespestad said. "Jazz is a bigger team and is all about tricks and technique. Street and hip hop are two different types of hip hop dancing, and contemporary is more modern-based and tells a story."

This performance art form allowed dancers to express themselves creatively. Since Madison Dance was such a large organization, it could be difficult to get to know everyone on each team. Regardless, junior health sciences major Andrea Raiello believed that the organization was still deeply connected.

"We are one team," Raiello said. "We try [to] do social events together to meet other girls doing different styles."

Whether they were turning across the dance floor or pulling out the latest hip hop moves, Madison Dance enjoyed being around one another. The team gave its members a place to call home on campus, where they could meet individuals with similar interests.

"I don't know what I would do without Madison Dance," Nikole Taylor, a senior health sciences major and the head hip hop choreographer, said. "It is a huge stress reliever and keeps me sane."

While they participated in different JMU and Harrisonburg events throughout the year, the team showcased their hard work in their final show at the end of the semester.

Madison Dance provided many opportunities for its members, including the chance to make lifelong friends. The dancers' passion for self-expression seemed to make them an extraordinary addition to campus.

WORDS | Julianne Cavanaugh
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Madison Dance
DESIGN | Alexandra Rathjens and Paige Lobuts



Seniors Lindsey Yoder, Nikole Taylor, Ann Vespestad and Taylor Newland pose in the studio during practice. Dancers needed to stretch thoroughly before rehearsal to avoid injury.



Junior Kayla McMahon works on her choreography in the studio. A dancer's muscles had to be very strong in order to perform each move with accuracy.



Madison Dance smiles in their team shirts. The organization formed four separate teams that showcased different styles of dance.

Club Bhangra jumps for joy on the steps of Wilson Hall. The traditional garb was colorful, reflecting the vibrancy of the dance style.

The team practices to make sure their choreography is in sync. Such an intricate dance called for plenty of rehearsal time.

MISSION OF TRADITION

Dance club brings Indian culture to JMU

Bhangra was a dance created in northern India that encompassed many different styles, including traditional, free form and modern. JMU Bhangra promoted this dance across campus, inviting students from all cultures to immerse themselves in the upbeat, high-intensity choreography.

Kushali Marwaha, a junior finance major and the president of the club, started dancing in the Bhangra style when she was only 12 years old.

"My favorite aspect of Bhangra is just physically dancing," Marwaha said. "It was originally created to celebrate the harvest season, so it's a happy dance. My favorite part is bringing that to other people. It's interesting to teach them about it and see how happy people are when they're dancing."

The club began in 2009 when a group of students performed the dance for the International Student Association. At first, the group performed once a year in the spring, but they later decided to register as an official sports club of the university.

The members practiced three times a week for two hours, increasing their practice schedule when competitions were on the horizon. The club typically competed throughout Virginia and performed at on-campus events, including Relay for Life and during intermissions at a cappella concerts.

"I wanted to learn more advanced Bhangra, and JMU was the best place for me to start," senior computer information systems major Paras Gupta said in an email interview. "I wanted to compete at different venues. I wanted to learn more about my culture and be able to expand my traditional dancing skills in the long run."

Although Gupta joined the organization as a senior, he was still able to immerse himself in the culture and planned to continue dancing Bhangra throughout his lifetime.

Bhangra provided a means for students who enjoyed this traditional dance to connect with one another while completing a fast-paced workout. This organization sparked the interest of students who wanted to explore the lively, spirited Indian dance style.

WORDS | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Courtesy of Club Bhangra
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao



Members of the club perform in the Bhangra style. The group frequently danced both onstage and on The Commons.



ACADEMICS



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

anthropology
communication studies
english
history
international affairs
justice studies
media arts and design
modern foreign languages
philosophy and religion
political science
public policy and administration
sociology
writing, rhetoric and technical communication



Aaron Hoover
Justice Studies



Adam Miner
Poltical Science



Alexis Frye
Media Arts and Design



Andrew Haveles
Communication Studies



Anna Peck
Media Arts and Design



Annamarie Nyirady
Media Arts and Design



Briana Campbell
Sociology



Briana Enck
Justice Studies



Brittany Albanese
Communication Studies



D'quaun Lyons
Communication Studies



Connor Bokop
Justice Studies



Danielle Rabinowitz
Anthropology



Danielle Ruble
Media Arts and Design



David Essid
Public Policy and Administration



Denise Kennedy
Media Arts and Design



Devon Harkins
Communication Studies



Diamond Blathers
Sociology



Diana Murray
Communication Studies



Elizabeth Ray
Justice Studies



Evan Cook
Justice Studies



George Bridgforth IV
Media Arts and Design



Georgette Sarno
Justice Studies



Ian Squires
International Affairs



Ikrama Ranjha
International Affairs



Jacqueline Jessop
Media Arts and Design



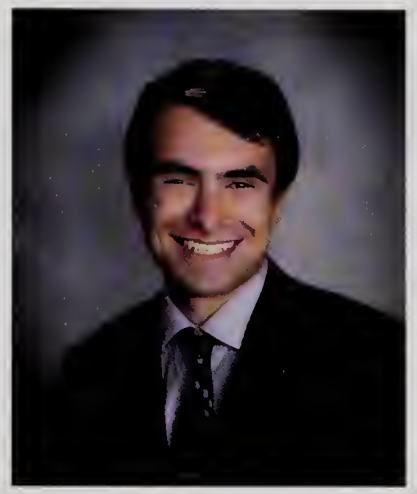
Jennifer Bress
International Affairs



Jessica Lyon
Media Arts and Design



Jessica McMahan
Political Science



Jonathan Kilgore
Communication Studies



Jonathon Matthews III
History



Kaila Diodati
Justice Studies



Katherine Ross
Communication Studies



Katherine Sides
English



Katia Lizarraga
International Affairs



Kelly Vandemark
History



Kiersten Gausman
History



Kristen Friel
Communication Studies



Kyle Lundquist
Anthropology



Laura DeLongis
Communication Studies



Lucas Klugh
Justice Studies



Madeline Rafi
Communication Studies



Meagan Riley
English



Melissa Wyant
Media Arts and Design



Melody Sarno
International Affairs



Mikeala Skelton
Media Arts and Design



Nicole Goldstein
Media Arts and Design



Noelle Pinkerd
Anthropology



Rebecca Rosen
Communication Studies



Rimsha Masood
International Affairs



Ryan Yun
Public Policy and
Administration



Shannon Brockman
Communication Studies



Shelby Teets
History



Spencer Dole
Public Policy and
Administration



Stephanie Rudd
Communcation Studies



Summer Tarpley
Communication Studies



Syed Haris Ghayas
Justice Studies



Taylor Brandt
Justice Studies



Taylor Kahny
Writing, Rhetoric and
Technical Communication



Thomas Adkins
Media Arts and Design



Thomas Nixon
English



Valarie Hayes
Anthropology



Vanina Waingortin
International Affairs



Whitney Roberts
Media Arts and Design



Zachary Allentuck
English

Students take notes during a class. JMU offered small class sizes, allowing for a more intimate learning environment.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

accounting

computer information systems

economics

finance

hospitality management

international business

management

marketing

sport and recreation management

quantitative finance



Adam Drosdak
Management



Alexa Cohen
Sport and Recreation Management



Allysia Rohlehr
Marketing



Amanda Roe
Accounting



Andrew Carlin
Marketing



Angela DiMattina
Accounting



Anna Hogue
Sports and Recreation Management



Annie Huvane
Marketing



Anthony Manno
Accounting



Audra Avery
Hospitality Management



Brian Chambers
Computer Information Systems



Brian Noonan
Finance



Christian Embrey
Economics



Crystal Jin
Accounting



Daniel Yurkovic
Management



Danielle Maier
Finance



Donna Moberg
Finance



Dylan Deibel
International Business



Elizabeth Van Tol
Economics



Emanuela Kusi
Management



Emmanuel Suarez
Computer Information Systems



Eric Frazzano
Management



Evan Fisher
Finance



Gregory Hobson
Finance



Gregory Kozlowski
Marketing



Haojie Huang
International Business



He Zhang
Computer Information Systems



Jacob Hurd
Management



James Henifin
Accounting



Jennifer Feerick
Accounting



Jon Teconchuk
Finance



Justin Cannon
Finance



Kathryn Nichols
Hospitality Management



Kelly Greeson
Accounting



Kelsey Craig
Finance



Kendall Alexander
Management



Kittikun Kijbamrunglarp
Quantitative Finance



Kyle Giordano
Marketing



Laura Chilton
Hospitality Management



Lauren McCabe
Management



Marisa Righi
Marketing



Marissa McGill
Computer Information Systems



Mark Gunst
Marketing



Matthew Deters
Marketing



Megan Greed
Accounting



Megan Ireland
Computer Information Systems



Melanie Waldron
Computer Information Systems



Michael Garde
Economics



Mitchell Pitts
Sport and Recreation Management



Mitchell Weissman
Management



Morgan Mescan
Sport and Recreation Management



Natalie Fioretto
Sport and Recreation Management



Paige Moore
Marketing



Patricia Cottrell
Hospitality Management



Patrick Huntley
International Business



Rebecca Quay
International Business



Rushton McCormick
Management



Ryan Talento
Marketing



Samuel Spicer
Management



Sean Skramko
Hospitality Management



Stephanie Gamble
Management



Taylor Perretti
Management



Thomas Menton
Accounting



Tracy Staeudle
Sport and Recreation



Xueqiu Liu
Computer Information Systems



You Wu
Accounting



Zachary Jacobs
Finance

Zane Showker Hall, home to the College of Business, stands in the Lakeside area of campus. Many business majors took classes in Showker.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

interdisciplinary liberal studies



Alexa Persinger
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Amy McQuaide
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Brianne McCrave
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Cayleh Church
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Courtney Didlake
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Elizabeth O'Donnell
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



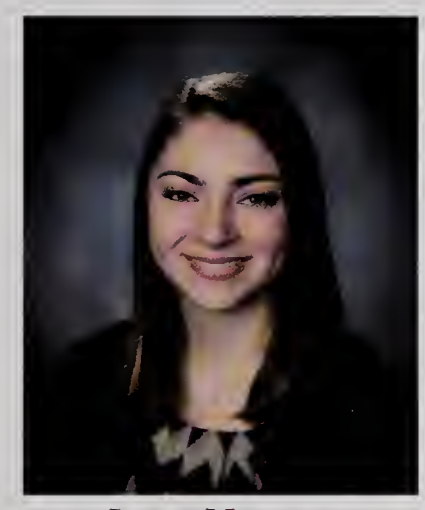
Elizabeth Strauss
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Jessie Seymour
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Kelly Gunn
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Laura Massaro
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Megan Fitzpatrick
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Meghan Stemann
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Patricia Cohen
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Taylor Mutchler
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies



Whitney Hawkins
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies

Located on Grace Street, Memorial Hall houses the College of Education. Formerly Harrisonburg High School, the building came under the university's ownership in 2006.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES

athletic training

communication sciences and disorders

dietetics

health sciences

health services administration

kinesiology

nursing

psychology

social work



Abbey Weist
Communication Sciences and Disorders



Abenaa Boatemaa-Antwi
Health Sciences



Amanda Turner
Psychology



Amouri Howey
Health Services Administration



Amy Proietti-Fox
Nursing



Amy Sitts
Health Services Administration



Ana Leskanich
Psychology



Andrew Cooney
Psychology



Anna Moore
Health Sciences



Anna Stock
Psychology



Ashleigh Bivens
Health Sciences



Ashley Littman
Health Sciences



Austin Griffith
Psychology



Brian DeHart
Kinesiology



Brooke Panfil
Kinesiology



Bryanna Tessier
Health Sciences



Caitlin Cadematori
Health Sciences



Candice Belus
Nursing



Carlyn Pearce
Health Sciences



Cassandra Campbell
Health Services
Administration



Cassandra Cerullo
Psychology



Christina Edmonds
Kinesiology



Christina Thoppil
Health Sciences



Claire Martin
Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Courtney Ryan
Nursing



Dana Kelly
Health Services
Administration



Daniel Camunas
Social Work



Danielle Lerer
Psychology



Donald Jones, Jr.
Health Sciences



Dylan Kitley
Psychology



Emily Ford
Health Sciences



Erica Larson
Kinesiology



Erin Lustbader
Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Fatimah Al-Ismail
Health Sciences



Gabrielle Miguelez
Health Services
Administration



Gail Adams
Kinesiology



Gianna Feaster
Health Sciences



Ginamarie Borgia
Health Sciences



Grace Woody
Nursing



Hannah Ming
Health Sciences



Hope Hellwege-Bales
Psychology



James Horne
Psychology



Jared Andre
Psychology



Jenna Howe
Nursing



Jessica Taylor
Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Justin Borough
Dietetics



Kaitlyn Keyser
Athletic Training



Karen Orozco
Health Sciences



Kathleen Clement
Kinesiology



Kayla Knox
Psychology



Kendal Brown
Psychology



Kendra Hall
Psychology



Kyle Yamane
Kinesiology



Kyrus Smith
Psychology



Lauren Fortier
Psychology



Lauren Johnson
Health Sciences



Lauren Nigro
Health Sciences



Lauren Yeung
Health Sciences



Lillian Addy
Health Sciences



Malyna Weedon
Dietetics



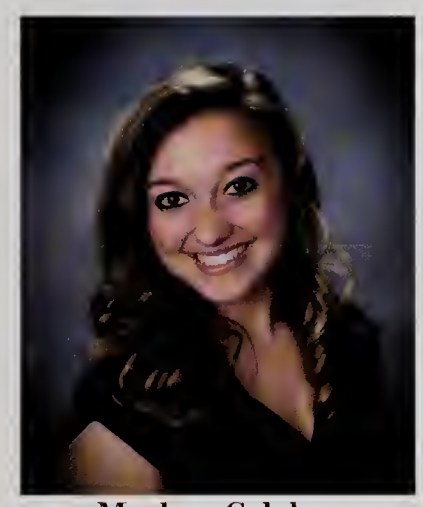
Mariah Longmore
Psychology



Mariah Verde Pena
Psychology



Megan Kowalewski
Health Sciences



Meghan Calabro
Health Sciences



Morgan Larcara
Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Nicole Fox
Psychology



Nicole Trupo
Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Olivia Robertson
Health Sciences



Philipa Owusu
Health Sciences



Priscilla Vu
Health Sciences



Rachel Bily
Psychology



Rebecca Aaron
Psychology



Rebecca Davis
Psychology



Rebecca McCallister
Psychology



Roseann Hoover
Communication Sciences and Disorders



Sara Richa
Health Sciences



Sarah Musa
Nursing



Sarah Posen
Communication Sciences and Disorders



Savannah McCord
Kinesiology



Simona Lourekas
Health Sciences



Siria Minaya
Psychology



Tara McGarvey
Health Sciences



Ty Bigelow
Athletic Training



Virgil Phillips, Jr.
Heath Services Administration



Zachary Carter
Health Sciences



Zoe Zublick
Health Sciences

PRICELESS PEDAGOGY

Psychology professor engages with students



Professor Kimberly DuVall teaches a lecture in Miller Hall. DuVall made an effort to connect with students through her lessons.

Psychology professor Kimberly DuVall was just one of the many intelligent faculty members at James Madison University. Rated the No. 1 professor in the nation on the website RateMyProfessors.com, her particular set of teaching abilities seemed to attract the attention of students and media alike.

DuVall received her undergraduate degree from JMU before making her way into the world of psychology-based work. Throughout her career, she was able to gain knowledge from firsthand experience working in a psychiatric hospital, doing brain surgery on rats in a research lab, and serving as a cognitive therapist and psychometrician. DuVall brought stories to her classes from each of her past positions, which served to keep students interested and demonstrate real-life applications of the material.

"I try to make my class applicable to [my students'] lives immediately," DuVall said.

DuVall's field of expertise gave her a leg up in understanding the human brain and humans in general. Be it in a lecture of 150 students or a class of 12, DuVall made an attempt to connect with each person in some way.

"I survey my students to find out more about them and then use their interests, activities and questions as examples to reinforce psychological concepts," DuVall said.

DuVall constantly worked to improve her teaching methods and presented information that best catered to her students' preferences and interests, allowing for a greater understanding of the material.

"The class itself is a completely different experience than a regular class, but that has everything to do with [DuVall]," junior psychology major Emily Ingersoll said in an email interview. "She has told us from the beginning that we will be learning so much throughout this experience without even realizing it, and it's true."

> "She always exudes positivity and encourages us to pursue avenues of personal and professional development."

Many of DuVall's other students shared this sentiment.

"She truly takes interest in the lives of her students and will do what she can to help inside and outside of class. She always exudes positivity and encourages us to pursue avenues of personal and professional development," junior psychology major Elisabeth Burleson said in an email interview. "I find a new reason to look up to her every day."

From upper-level psychology classes to large general education classes, DuVall seemed to leave a positive impact wherever she taught.

WRITTEN | Karen Franz and Hannah Adams
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Alexandra Orndahl





Above: During a lecture, DuVall explains a psychological concept to her students. DuVall was a JMU graduate.
Below: DuVall smiles in her office. Like DuVall, many professors incorporated into their lectures that which they had learned in the field.



Situated on the east side of campus, the ISAT/CS Building faces the Quad
The building housed the College of Integrated Science and Engineering.



COLLEGE OF INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

computer science
engineering
geographic science
integrated science and technology
intelligence analysis



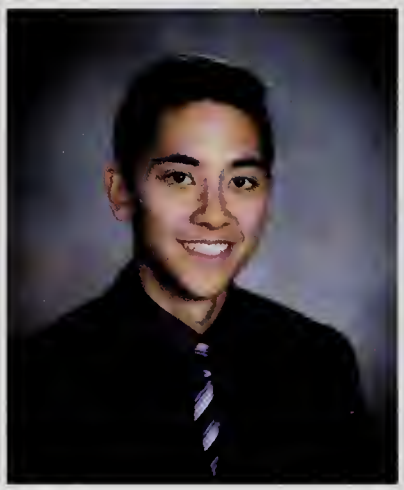
Alexander Karp
Computer Science



Andrew Funkhouser
Integrated Science
and Technology



Brian Groener
Engineering



Bryan Garrett
Engineering



Cameron Stalker
Integrated Science
and Technology



Edward Powell
Engineering



Emma Martin
Geographic Science



Eric Shifflett
Intelligence Analysis



Erika Murray
Integrated Science
and Technology



Jonathan Romero
Engineering



Justin Humphries
Intelligence Analysis



Kaitlin Roberts
Computer Science



Kelsey Solan
Integrated Science
and Technology



Kevin Moore
Engineering



Lisha White
Engineering



Michael Pearson
Computer Science



Morgan Volpe
Intelligence Analysis



Natalie Jones
Engineering



Patrick Sharpe
Computer Science



Preston White
Integrated Science and Technology



Rachel Harvey
Engineering



Richard Baier, Jr.
Engineering



Robert Banez
Intelligence Analysis



Robert Sullivan
Computer Science



Sarah Rowe
Engineering

The ISAT/CS Building overlooks
The university constructed this bu

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

biology
biotechnology
chemistry
earth science
geology
mathematics
physics
statistics



Anh Nguyen
Mathematics



Anthony Allsbrook
Chemistry



Ashley Graca
Biotechnology



Avery Wengler
Mathematics



Caryn Martin
Geology



Catherine Torres
Biology



Codie Lewis
Mathematics



Gloria Adubofour
Biology



Jesmine Roberts-Torres
Biology



Jessie Doyle
Biology



Joshua Gerard Mata
Biology



Kelli Park
Biology



Kira Heeschen
Earth Science



Kirstie Thompson
Chemistry



Margo Deihl
Biology



Megan Hines
Biology



Michelle Neitzey
Biology



Ruth Menger
Chemistry



Saieh Bijani
Chemistry



Sarah Hartman
Biology



Se Chang
Biotechnology



Xueyun Shi
Mathematics



Sidiqullah Halim
Biology



Stacey Law
Geology



Steven Lai
Biology



Suzhen Zhang
Biology

WAVES OF CHANGE

Biology student earns prestigious scholarship

While all students spent hours in the classroom, some went above and beyond for the chance to gain experience in their future careers. One such student was junior biology major Amanda Crandall. Crandall received the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship and internship at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Vienna, Virginia, for the summer of 2016.

"I definitely did not think I was going to get this scholarship when I applied, but I sent in [the application] and was accepted," Crandall said.

Crandall concentrated in environmental studies and minored in geographic science. This academic combination provided her with the opportunity to take classes that married these two interests.

"I was [Crandall's] professor for biological application of geographical applications, a class that catered to both [biology] and geographic science students," Bruce Wiggins, a biology professor and Crandall's honors program adviser, said.

Crandall's internship at NOAA would entail conducting a dietary analysis of harbor porpoises. In addition to the internship, Crandall received $9,000 to help offset the cost of continuing her education during her final semesters at JMU.

"I am excited to get some experience in the field that I love," Crandall said. "I get to use the environmental conservation skills I learned in class and apply [them] to a real-life situation."

While Crandall found her internship to be an exciting prospect, she was also eager to complete research on campus during her senior year.

"The biology department has in-house, hands-on opportunities working with professors and doing lab work here," Wiggins said. "The [biology] department also has a Web page that links to work off campus."

As advice for underclassmen interested in prestigious scholarships, Crandall noted if they simply applied, and they might be surprised at the outcome.

"With this scholarship, I definitely didn't think I was going to get it, but I applied and got in," Crandall said.

Whether working in the lab or spending time with outside companies, Amanda Crandall was ready to take what she learned in class to make a positive impact on the community.

WORDS | Hannah Adams
PHOTOS | University Marketing Photography Department
DESIGN | Casey Dwyer

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

art history
graphic design
interior design
music
theatre and dance
studio art



Caroline Clouse
Music



Chloe Atno-Shelton
Theatre and Dance



Christiana Calantropo
Music



Daniel Stein
Studio Art



Jasmine Mack
Studio Art



Jilan Albayyat
Graphic Design



Logan Wooldridge
Graphic Design



Martha Blanks
Music



Matthew Knopp
Music



Moira Ragen
Theatre and Dance



Tyler Bailey
Music



Tyler Glover
Graphic Design

The Forbes Center for the Performing Arts stands at the end of the Quad opposite Wilson Hall. The building housed classrooms and performance studios for a wide range of majors.



ORGANIZATIONS



ALPHA DELTA PI



Members | Alison Abramczyk, Brittany Adams, Melissa Alvarez, Emily Alvaro, Madeleine Ammons, Keaton Amthor, Jacqueline Angel, Lauren Antilety, Audrey Antoniello, Amanda Anzalone, Audra Avery, Madeline Ayers, Olivia Azrak, Corinne Barbieri, Briana Barnett, Lindsey Bass, Valerie Beacham, Colby Bedell, Megan Bell, Cara Bibeault, Kaitlin Bickel, Taylor Bogemann, Emily Bonta, Heather Boswell, Marissa Bricker, Katherine Brochu, Lindsey Brockman, Shannon Brockman, Melanie Callihan, Daria Capaldi, Corinne Cardinal, Leah Carson, Courtney Carullo, Emily Catizone, Allison Cherundolo, Catherine Churchman, Caroline Cole, Lisa Coletta, Alex Collier, Ashley Curtis, Brooke Daniels, Madeleine Dann, Abigail DeFeo, Caitlin DiChiara, Lindsay Dickenson, Alexis Dickerson, Alyssa DiGirolamo, Briana DiNardo, Allison Dionne, Annie Downs, Hannah Doyle, Autumn Eavey, Miranda Essig, Valerie Evans, Jenn Farrell, Caylor Feeley, Casey Fitzgerald, Morgan Flanagan, Chelsea Fonseca, Samantha Fox, Shannon Fox, Emily Friedman, Brianna Gaston, Kersten Gates, Chloe Gay, Sarah Kate Gervasoni, Kelsey Granger, Sarah Gray, Lauren Greenberg, Rachael Griffith, Peyton Grubb, Jorden Gunessever, Hailey Gutzmer, Kelsey Hair, Allison Hatz, Anja Hencken, Alexa Hodges, Madeline Holden, Kailey Hoppe, Anna Hornberger, Ellen Hornsby, Morgan Howell, Rachel Huber, Alexis Hughes, Anna Hull, Hannah Hunt, Jennifer Hunt, Daniela Ilijic, Ornella Islam, Alexandra Jackson, Madison Jacobs, Stefanie Jacobson, Caitlin Jaeckel, Allison Jaggers, Carrisa Jeffers, Rachel Kagle, Madison Kashetta, Erin Kavusak, Erin Kay, Allison Kaye, Kelsey Kneeland, Abby Koenig, Maddie Kreber, Victoria Kull, Lexi Lambert, Lindsey Laubenstein, Morgan Lawson, Carli Lemelin, Byronae Lewis, Paige Lobuts, Rachael Love, Malone Lowry, Lindsey Lubin, Samantha Lucas, Corinne Lyons, Emma Malloy, Mary Mansfield, Sarah Marchesini, Gina Marinelli, Jacqueline Martel, Jessica Martin, Caitlin Masse, Kate McCord, Erin McEvoy, Melissa Meyers, Jamie Migliaccio, Kyndra Miller, Laura Modica, Katherine Montera, Paige Moody, Meredith Mothershead, Madelene Mueller, Taylor Mugford, Devhan Murphy, Erica Muzzy, Olivia Needham, Kara Nelson, Fortuna Ngai, Leah Nolan, Emily Nutting, Makenzie Oates, Madeline Osborn, Meghan Osborne, Megan Parker, Lindsey Payne, Caroline Peranich, Carolyn Perkins, Lauren Perry, Nicole Philbin, Kayla Piatkowski, Kimberly Pitt, Lisa Pulley, Mary Brooke Ramsey, Emily Razzi, Ann Rector, Erica Reifinger, Christina Reilly, Sydney Remaily, Megan Rettew, Kaitlyn Richard, Paige Ridge, Meredith Ritter, Brittany Rizika, Madison Robbins, Amanda Roe, Samantha Roth, Shannon Sacco, Sarah Salzman, MacKenzie Sanders, Lauren Schild, Agnes Schmitt, Emily Schmitt, Sarah Schmitz, Erin Schneeberger, Miranda Scoggin, Kimberly Scott, Jackie Seeman, Lindsay Selman, Brianna Semanchik, Maddie Sesemann, Autumn Shade, Autumn Shade, Ali Shannon, Samantha Shepherd, Shannon Silvester, Daniella Sirochinsky, Stephanie Skelly, Lily Slonim, Becca Small, Charlotte Smith, Claire Smith, Morgan Smith, Shannon Solak, Lisa Staal, Madison Stackman, Cassandra Stern, Madison Steward, Anna Stock, Jordan Stockman, Rebecca Stopsky, Julie Strunk, Samantha Subbert, Sarah Sugarman, Caitlyn Sullivan, Cara Swartz, Sam Swingle, Isabel Tamouro, Mackenzie Tarlow, Erika Tatro, Alexandria Taylor, Shelby Teets, Rebekah Tenney, Sarah Tew, Ciara Thomas, Kirsten Tice, Josephine Till, Morgan Timberlake, Uyen Tran, Maggie Van Deusen, Rachael Vono, Emily Wallace, Caitlin Walters, Paige Warner, Elizabeth Warness, Ashley Watson, Elisebeth White, Courtney Williams, Taylor Williams, Alli Winkeler, Alli Winkeler, Sydney Winnick, Katie Wixted, Rachel Wu, Bethany Yates and Kathryn Young.

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY



Members | Julianne Agudo, Collin Ashley, Chad Baron, Daisy Becerra John Boland, Jen Busch, Joey Capuano, Amanda Cascio, Mackenzie Cate, Sophie Cienski, Ani Clem, Chris Cole, AJ Dalida, Thomas DeGraba, Claire Delaney, Mike Dolzer, Lauren Fabrize, Brittany Fontana, Madeline Freeman, Hope Gallagher, Jaqueline Garcia, Jenna Gilmore, Gian Gonzalez, Sarah Gorham, Denise Heisler, Jackie Herrick, Sarah Howard, Chase Imoru, Ashley Jordan, Jenna Kosyla, Baile Lakata, Jaimee Lantzy, Evan McAllister, Rose McGroatry, Jake McMonagle, Olivia Mullins, Emily Murphy, Katie O'Brien, Kevin O'Connor, Elllen Orie, Jen Oskin, Meredith Popernack, Claire Rafter, Sandra Richie, Christina Roberts, Jeannine Rossi, Georgette Sarno, Joey Scully, Lindsey Seyfried, Christina Shaw, Elizabeth Shofi, Rev. Ken Shuping, Danny Smith, Emily Spicer, Matthew Style, Catey Susco, Madison Ulmer, Tim Van Gorder, Ryan Walters, Thomas Wheeler and Suzi Windland

.

GAMMA PHI BETA



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PHI MU



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FOOTSTEPS AND MILESTONES

The Madison Society preserves traditions

The university held customs that were not only significant to many students, but also showcased the pride that accompanied being a Duke. From holding the door open for people and painting the spirit rock to throwing purple and gold streamers into the air at football games, JMU was a university rooted in tradition.

The Madison Society, a group of passionate students, staff and alumni, set out to establish new rituals on campus. The organization conceived and maintained traditions that were important to the university community.

Heidi Jenkins, a senior communications studies major and the president of the Madison Society, described how her experience as a member allowed her to have new opportunites to serve the campus.

"Being a part of this prestigious society has allowed me to give back to a university and community that has given so much to me," Jenkins said. "I can thrive at JMU through my academics, community involvement and civic engagement, none of which I would have been exposed to at any other university. Leading this incredible group of individuals has truly been an honor."

On Nov. 25, 2015, the Madison Society created a new custom by placing an engraved bronze seal on one of the cobblestone circles at the end of the Quad. James Riley, a former music professor, wrote the alma mater which was the seal proudly displayed. The lyrics of this song reflected the love many students had for the university.

The Madison Society had a desire to place a seal on the Quad to honor future and past alumni for years, but it was not an easy or inexpensive feat. Someone needed to design the seal, and the school had to modify the brickwork that previously existed in that space to make sure it fit perfectly. The vision finally became a reality in 2016, thanks to the Madison Society's hard work and a donation from the Class of 2003. The seal was a constant reminder to the campus of the importance of alumni.

The Madison Society hoped to start a new tradition for the student body: Students were to avoid stepping on the seal out of respect for all that it represented.

The campaign that went along with the seal was called "Respect Madison" and was an effort to encourage the student body to uphold the moral character and educational integrity that the university encouraged. This included making wise decisions and behaving in a way that would positively impact the community.

"It's important for students to remember that James Madison [University] is our home, and therefore, we need to treat it with the utmost respect," Jenkins said.

Jenkins remembered the dedication the members of the Madison Society had to display to accomplish their goals.

"It's been a reminder to me that if you really want to make something happen, all you have to do is never give up," Jenkins said.

With four short years on this campus, many students felt the need to make their time matter. The Madison Society considered it an honor to be a part of this project and see one of their largest aspirations come to life.

| Jacqueline Garcia
| Alexis Painter
| Casey Dwyer

Students walk around the seal while on their way to class.
The Madison Society funded the seal as a sign of respect to the institution.

“JMU was a university rooted in tradition.”

BEST OF 2015

Student survey reveals top music, movies and more

2015 was a year filled with pop culture phenomena, social and political movements and unforeseen tragedies. With exponential growth in technology and social media, the year was riddled with trends and change. The university student population expressed attitudes that reflected the year's most popular topics, voicing their opinions in an online survey that gathered 52 responses in early 2016. These students revealed their preferences regarding top-grossing films, popular television programs, social media outlets and hit music of the year. The answers represented the variety of ways that students communicated, experienced entertainment and lived their lives in 2015.

WORDS | Christiana Freitag
DESIGN | Leah Jacobs

Most Popular Social Media

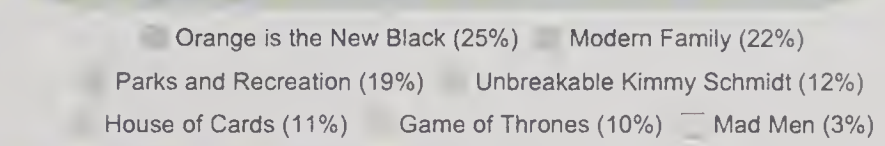


Most Popular TV Streaming Services



Top TV Shows

"Orange is the New Black" (50%)
"Modern Family" (44%)
"Parks and Recreation" (38%)
"Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" (24%)
"House of Cards" (22%)
"Game of Thrones" (20%)
"Mad Men" (6%)



Top Singles

"What Do You Mean?" - Justin Bieber (25%)
"Hello" - Adele (23.08%)
"Blank Space" - Taylor Swift (15.38%)
"Uptown Funk" - Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars (11.54%)
"The Hills" - The Weeknd (7.69%)
"See You Again" - Wiz Khalifa feat. Charlie Puth (5.77%)
"Bad Blood" - Taylor Swift feat. Kendrick Lamar (5.77%)
"Cheerleader" - OMI (3.85%)
"Can't Feel My Face" - The Weeknd (1.92%)



Top Grossing Movies

"Pitch Perfect 2" (58.33%)
"Jurassic World" (47.92%)
"American Sniper" (47.92%)
"Fifty Shades of Grey" (47.92%)
"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (33.33%)
"Magic Mike XXL" (25%)
"Avengers: Age of Ultron" (16.67%)
"Mad Max: Fury Road" (12.5%)
"Straight Outta Compton" (10.42%)
"Furious 7" (8.33%)



AT YOUR SERVICE

Dining Services employees share their favorite dishes



Right: Dining Services employees prepare homestyle food at D-Hall. Many students enjoyed savory cuts of meat from the Southern Bistro station.



Left: The staff keeps the toppings fresh at the E-Hall salad bar. E-Hall offered a variety of buffet-style dining options for students.



Right: An employee stands ready to serve sandwiches at D-Hall. This dining hall offered alternatives for those with allergies or food sensitivities.

A Dining Services member cleans a skillet at E-Hall. This dining facility often featured foods from around the world.

The dining halls at JMU gave students a variety of cuisine options. With choices on East Campus, like E-Hall and Festival, and on Main Campus, like D-Hall, Market One, PC Dukes and Top Dog, there was no excuse for students with dining plans to go hungry. Although often overlooked, the university owed many of its glowing reviews to the people behind the registers, Dining Services.

"My favorite dish that Dining Services has to offer is simple: I love our turkey sandwiches," Festival cashier Winnie Hoover said.

The skillets and crêpes at Festival were additional favorites. Those on the other side of campus got their on-the-go picks at Market 1, which was located in Gibbons Hall.

"The pasta bowl is my favorite, but I also enjoy the rotisserie chicken, salad bar and sweet potatoes at D-Hall," Market 1 cashier Dena Peterson said in an email interview.

Peterson was originally from Charlottesville, Virginia, and integrated skills she had gained in college with her position at the fast-paced dining location.

"My degree is in accounting, so as a cashier, I get to use the skills I learned in college while also interacting with our students," Peterson said.

The Student Success Center, another popular spot on campus, also contained several delicious dining options. Upon entrance into the building, students could took in the aroma of Dunkin' Donuts coffee and pastries. On the second floor, students also found Bistro 1908, Grace Street Market and Get Your Green On.

West Virginia native and SSC Dunkin' Donuts cashier Wilma Bowers noted that Bistro 1908 was her favorite place to eat on campus.

"I moved to this area in 1959 to take a job," Bowers said in an email interview. "I retired after 43 years at that company but was not ready to stay at home, so shortly after that, I started as a cashier at D-Hall. ... It is a learning experience each time I go to a new place."

Dining Services demonstrated new eating experiences at JMU were not just for students and faculty members. Learning a new skill or entering into a job kept the campus thriving, and for those like Peterson and Bowers, there were numerous opportunities to develop as individuals, as well.

WRITER | Taylor Kahny
PHOTOS | Carley Toms
DESIGN | Nguyen Cao



CLOSING

STORY AFTER STORY, WE ARE "THE BLUESTONE"

Before it can take shape, every great endeavor must have a foundation. And it is here that our story begins.

Be. One word — just an idea extended within our minds, yearning for substance. Such began Volume 107 of "The Bluestone," with little more than a shapeless blueprint of the structure we would erect. Paper laid before us and fears laid behind, ideas were at first tentatively then boldly proposed. We summoned the unknown. Plans were engineered, plans were discarded, and in the process, "The Bluestone 2016" began to take shape.

The foundation was laid and the vision was set, and we needed to begin building. But the brick and mortar in our story were words and experiences, memories and tragedies. Yet how does one capture the essence of the university whose power to transform rendered none unmoved?

Of course, we had to begin with those who comprised it. The people, their stories — these would become the materials with which we would build. So we started writing, photographing and designing, and as we did, time began to slow.

These stories — as we layered one atop the next, we watched our vision began to stand on its own. It seemed almost to direct us; we were no longer in control, but were under the lordship of the year that had passed around us and within us. It seemed that the university itself was our lead architect, and we were in submission.

Story after story, we rose. We continued until our stories stood on their own.

And time stopped. 2015-2016 would remain forever immortalized within the pages of this book. We typically fear the idea, for it hints at permanence, but within the walls of Roop G-6, we welcome setting things in stone. So long as it is Bluestone.

| Giuliana Macaluso

BLUESTONE STAFF



First Row | Karen Franz, Christiana Freitag, Alexandra Orndahl, Breanna Young, Nguyen Cao
Second Row | Nicole Landry, Carley Toms, Jacqueline Garcia, Alexis Painter, Casey Dwyer

Not Pictured | Raja Abdul-Badee, Hannah Beverage, Kendal Brown, Emily Burdette, Julianne Cavanaugh, Veronica Garcia, Alana Gillespie, Taylor Kahny, Steven Klein, Danielle Lerer, Allison Lindsey, Katharine Maniatakis, Meghan Markwell, Umara Mir, Alexandra Rathjens, Jane Ryu, Samantha Swingle and Samantha Webster

THE BLUESTONE
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Front Row | Michelle Criqui, Paige Lobuts and Hannah Adams.
Second Row | Leah Jacobs, Jillian Wright, Taylor Kahny and Giuliana Macaluso.

Editor-in-Chief's Desk

PAIGE LOBUTS

"Do it. Just do it. Don't let your dreams be dreams."

Thanks, Shia LaBeouf, because I actually did it.

This 336-page book was my dream, and it's finally here.

In little to no time, I will have to pack up my belongings and turn off the lights to Roop G-6. I will lock the door to a room that provided me with laughs, tears and beautiful friendships. It's been an honor to serve as editor-in-chief for the past year, but it's also been a honor to be a member of a great organization for the past four. As a freshman, I walked into the yearbook office with a dream to become a great writer, but as a senior, I'm walking out as a better person (and writer, too, if I may say).

I don't know how I will get through remaining words of this letter without creating a pool of my own tears, but as Lindsay Lohan said in the "The Parent Trap" remake, "I'll take a whack at it."

Michelle — I am still thankful for the day that we got assigned a story together. Two years ago, as we ran around campus asking students about their embarrassing moments in college, our friendship blossomed. I knew that day was just the start of a friendship that was going to be full of laughter and discussions about how many ledes and kickers we were going to have to write and/or rewrite during deadline weekend. Thank you for being an amazing senior production editor this year. You've been a huge asset, helping our writers excel and learn the yearbook way of writing. You're such a kindhearted and captivating person to be around, and I'm grateful to call you my friend.

Hannah — You are my yearbook mom. I and my sanity thank you for being your organized and overachieving self. You've kept me in check during yearbook season, especially when I was on edge about submitting enough pages at 2 a.m. during deadline weekend. From seeing you as a young and eager photographer who took too many assignments and as a great managing editor, I'm so proud that I got to watch you grow into a great photojournalist and even better editor. Beyond the yearbook office, thank you for being a great friend, especially when I needed someone to listen to me to vent about my uneventful life. I can't wait to watch you over the next few years transform into the next Meredith Grey in addition to being a famous wedding photographer. You're gonna rock those MCATs, too, gal.

Leah — We are the literal dream team. I knew from the moment that I saw the yearbook Pinterest board that we were going to take designing yearbooks to another level. Our skills and personalities complement each other in so many ways, so just like Manfred and Ellie from "Ice Age 2", "[you] complete me." Besides your exceptional InDesign skills, we've become so close this year. I'm so glad that we get to attempt adulthood together in the District, which means that we will continue our Thursday happy hour celebrations (possibly at Chili's). This also means that our dates will always include margaritas because they are a key ingredient to our happiness.

Giuliana — First, go take a lap, and then come back and give me hug because you're one of the sweetest yet humourous people that I have ever met. I'm so happy that I met you in Spanish 300 and that Hannah swayed you to join us in Roop G-6. This book benefits from your wit and your eye for AP style and passive voice. You're truly a talented writer and editor, and I hope that someday everyone gets to listen to your captivating voice of passion and reason. Peace, love and pizza, gal. You will forever be my Maddipawinna.

Jill — I don't think I could ever go a day without hearing your sassy comments and seeing you give Giuliana the side-eye glare when she casually passes gas after eating six slices of cheese pizza. Your talent for knowing how to capture the perfect shot resembles how you captivate this office with your charm. I'm so glad that I created the photo editor position because this book and office would be incomplete without you and your love for Jimmy Tomato.

Taylor — Thank you for running social media and being my second-in-command with everything business-related to this book. I'm so glad that I convinced you last year to complete your internship with the yearbook because we definitely needed to hear your stories about your suitors to keep our long hours in the office entertaining. Your voice as a writer is inspiring because I can always tell how much love you have for the art of the written word. You always show your authentic self to everyone you meet, and I'm glad that I got to be one of those people. Peace, love and Sean.

To my sisters of Alpha Delta Pi — Thank you all for providing me with another home when I least expected it. As a founding member of this chapter, it's been amazing to see we have grown from the day we gathered on Wilson Hall steps to take the founding class photo in September 2012. This amazement only makes me excited to come back as an alumni. I found my best friends within this sisterhood, and I'm thankful for every day that I have spent with them. Throughout my last four years at this school, I've shared my most stressful and enjoyable moments with the women who make up this chapter. Although my time as an active member is coming to an end, I can say confidently that joining Greek life was one of the best decisions that I ever made because the people I met within this community.

To my parents — You've given me the world, and I don't know how to thank you enough for it through words. It's truly a blessing to be your child because everything that I have achieved throughout my entire life has been from your constant support and love.

To my sister, Brooke — Thank you for showing me your world at JMU and letting me make it my own, too. Your selflessness has altered how I see and treat others, and I'm thankful to be your little sister. Although we've had our disputes, you've always excelled in the role of my older sister. While Mom and Dad were the driving forces in my successes and development as a young woman, you have always been the passenger, guiding me one mile after another, never leaving me to face unpaved roads alone.

Last but never least, thank you, Roop G-6, for letting me explore college through words, photos and design. You have opened my eyes to the way one place can transform a person into becoming the person they once hoped they would be.

Thank you, JMU, for BEing the place I will always call home.



Senior Production Editor's Desk

MICHELLE CRIQUI

As I first descended the steps into the mysterious Roop Hall basement at the start of my freshman year, I had no idea that I was on my way to a room I would visit several dozen times during the next three years. I didn't know that I would spend such a copious amount of time in the dark yellow, ancient-smelling Roop G-6 that it would become like my second home, or that the girls with whom I spent those 120+ hours the would change my life forever.

Paige — Thank you for being our fearless leader! I will never forget being paired up with you for the first time on our "Never Have I Ever" story in 2013, and us dying with laughter at that one senior who fell in front of a tour group and also pretended to be deaf to get out of jail. Ever since then, I've been amazed at your determination and ambition. You know what you want, and you're not afraid to go after it! You also impress me with your ability to krump, twerk and perform all the moves to a variety of "High School Musical" songs at 2 a.m. — skills that definitely belong on your résumé. I already know you're going to go so far in life, and I'm so proud to have had you both as a friend and as our courageous, resilient HBIC.

Hannah — Where would we be without you? I'm so beyond grateful that we both somehow ended up being editors together this year. I admire you so much for the way you absolutely own being a jack of all trades, as a science major who triples as a wicked photographer and an incredible editor of copy and design. I love our random conversations about who Rey's father is in the new "Star Wars" (it's definitely Luke), and our mutual love for Fall Out Boy and Twenty One Pilots. I'm so relieved I don't have to say goodbye to you this year because you're such a fantastic human, and I'm really looking forward to taking on this wonderful book — and that crazy cluttered staff room — together.

Leah — First of all, your design skills are out of this world. Just when I think I have a new favorite spread, you come up with yet another masterpiece that completely blows me away. I like to think of you as the fairy godmother of InDesign because you have the magical ability to transform an ordinary spread into a sparkling glass slipper of greatness. You're also hilarious, with witty little one-liners that kill me every time and could fill a quote board all on their own. Thank you for making this book look as ridiculously beautiful as it does. I know that wherever life takes you and whatever you end up choosing to do, your spirit and talent will be an invaluable contribution to the world.

Jill — Oh, how I sincerely appreciate your expert skill and killer confidence. Our first story together was about students with unusual pets, and I still remember being in complete awe over your boldness as you ran up to random strangers on the Quad and straight-up asked: "Hey, do you have a weird pet?" This office would not be the same without your sneaky, indiscreet butt poking and extreme hatred for Jimmy Tomato, who has officially gone down in yearbook history as the object of our loathing and our punching bag whenever something goes wrong. Your sass and skill will get you far, Jilly Bean, and I am so excited to see what shenanigans we get into with next year's book.

G — Thank you so much for your amazing puns. Seriously. After hours and hours on end of staring with glazed eyes at our computer screens, your humor brought such a beautiful and much-needed light back into our souls. I admire the way you are able to literally let loose and be yourself. Your hilariously punny header ideas and creepy (yet weirdly endearing) baby voice help to break up the monotony during our endless rounds of edits. You are an AP style, copy editing wizard, and anyone you work for should thank their lucky stars to have you on their team. You are a true light and I am so glad to have gotten to know you this year.

Taylor — You are a lifesaver in all of the skillful writing and editing you have done this year. When I found out that you are also a part of Club Triathlon, at first I was just amazed at your strength and endurance, but then I realized that it makes total sense. You truly go the distance each deadline, sacrificing hours on end to come in and edit, as well as taking on and expertly writing many, many of the stories in this book. I know we'll all be disappointed if you don't end up going into modeling, but with your versatile range of talents, I know you'll be the champion of whatever you end up doing.

I am eternally grateful that I met every single one of you, and I know that I am a much better person because of it. We all come from such wonderfully different walks of life, and this yearbook is a perfect combination of all of our talents, backgrounds and personalities. I know without a doubt that there is a reason we were all brought together this year to this lovely yellow dungeon.

Thank you to my roommates, without whom I would not have survived the last two years. Between our "The Bachelor" marathons, late-night trips to Dairy Queen, Evil Apples tournaments and bizarre knowledge of SpongeBob references, you all have kept me sane and given me a home here at JMU.

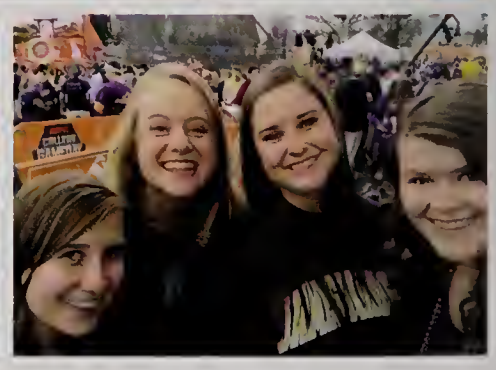
Lastly, an enormous thank you to my wonderful family — to Mama, Daddy-o, Shane, Brigitte, Nicki, Christi, Gigi and Bella. You all are my travel companions, my partners in crime, my confidantes and my best friends. Thank you so much for your endless love and support. You will always be my favorites.

So even though now I'll have to go through life subconsciously editing signs and correcting passive voice, every time I do it'll remind me of the almost surreal time spent down in Roop G-6 working on this wonderful, frustrating, life-changing book.









Managing Editor's Desk

HANNAH ADAMS

"Sad? No, no, no. I don't leave 'til tomorrow, so tomorrow I'll be a wreck."

Michael Scott said it best. Goodbyes stink. Thankfully, I won't have to say goodbye to these mustard-colored walls for another year, but for some reason, I am still all emotional. This year, this book, these ladies — it has all meant so much to me. I have learned more about grammar and journalism than I ever thought I would as a public health education major. And I am certainly a better person for it.

Paige — Thank you for all you've done for us. From inspirational pep talks to moderating Giuliana's wild ideas for story headers, you really pulled us together to make us more like sisters than an editorial board. I guess that makes you the ruling matriarch of our tiny kingdom, but I can live with that if it means you don't have to leave us. I know that all good things come to an end, and I can't wait to hear all about how fantastic you will be at your new job. You were born to lead, Paige, and I am so happy you were our leader this year.

Leah — You beautiful human. I have thoroughly enjoyed sitting next to you and hearing all your tiny whispers during deadline weekends. Seriously though, you are a goddess with InDesign, and I need you to teach me your ways. Whatever you end up doing with your life, I am sure you will be incredibly successful. I love what you did with the book this year, and I can't wait to see it in print.

Michelle — You might be the smartest one in the office. You write so beautifully, and it is always such a pleasure to read anything you come up with. I love your way with words, your witty sense of humor and your love for Ed Sheeran, even though Paige has outlawed his music in the office. I am so excited to see where we end up next year; it will be so much fun. Also, let's get together and redecorate this place. I think I found a soy sauce packet from 2007 … yikes.

Giuliana — Where do I begin? I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I met you on Facebook three years ago. We have been roommates and best friends, and now, we are co-workers. There isn't a day that goes by that I am not grateful that you joined the board with us. I know the book is better for it, and so are we. Deadline weekends without you would be a little too dull, devoid of so much silliness that you offer. Plus, who else could make Paige simultaneously laugh and groan? We need you like we need medicine to reduce the cholesterol floating in our blood after eating pizza all weekend. You are never allowed to graduate or live more than 15 minutes away from me, understand? Good talk.

Jill — Sweet, sassy Jilly Bean. I can not think of anyone else I'd rather have to be in charge of our photos. You were brave in the face of tragedies, such as the Jimmy Tomato fiasco of 2015 and the teeny tiny pictures that we still can't figure out how to fix. I am completely stunned by your visual eye, and I'm grateful Paige chose you to take care of all the pictures for this picture-heavy book. Please realize, students reading this, that Jill worked her butt off to make all these pictures look as fantastic as they do.

Taylor — Thank you for all the random, important things you have done for us this year. Without you, I am not sure the yearbook would be functioning as well as it does. You took the stories no one else took, and you wrote them so well. I have no idea where you will end up next year, but it will be fun to watch you. You might be one of the most unique people I have ever met, and I am grateful Paige brought you on board this year.

I also need to also thank my parents for supporting my crazy dreams, both with editing and with my photography business. You were my first cheerleaders, and you will always be the most important. A special thank-you to my brother for putting up with all my stories, most of which you definitely don't care about. It is so fun to come home and see all the cool fire and EMT things you learned.

A final thank-you goes out to my roommates, Laura and Kelly. You kept my cat alive during deadline weekends when I didn't get home until 3:30 a.m., and you tolerated me taking up all the space in our fridge. You're right; if we lived with four people, we would be screwed.

They say that college is the best time of your life, and after joining yearbook, I definitely think that is true. Here's to us, ladies — we did it!



Design Editor's Desk

LEAH JACOBS

After rooting through the yearbook office and acting like crazy people with Hannah, Michelle and Giuliana today, I know that applying to be design editor last year was the right decision.

When you add it up, we spent around 120 hours in Roop G-6. Spending that many hours in the office initially sounded daunting, but now I wish the hours weren't slipping away so quickly. These girls on the ed board have become my friends, and I'm so happy that I was able to spend all those hours with you all.

Hannah — I couldn't think of a better person to have as a desk buddy. Thank you for hearing my quiet comments and actually laughing at them. When we all think we can't work anymore, you keep the office going and always have an answer.

Giuliana — Wherever and whenever you read this, I hope you're also eating some pizza. You're absolutely "punderful" and made those late nights extremely entertaining, especially when you were running around in a tutu and doing parkour.

Jill — I think I'll always remember working on the Jimmy Tomato spread with you and redoing it at least ten times. Your sassy little comments are the funniest, and I still don't understand how you hear some of mine, but I'm so glad you do.

Michelle — You're so sweet and cheerful, and despite these icky yellow walls, you brighten up the office. I can tell you're so passionate about the yearbook, and your writing is absolutely incredible because you put your heart into it.

Taylor — I had a blast with you at the Crayola House, and I'm so glad we got to hang out outside of the office. You're always there to help, and the ed board and book wouldn't be as amazing as it is without you.

And of course, Paige — I know that this year has been particularly stressful and emotional for us because we were the only seniors in the office. But I think we both agree it was all worth it to be able to make our senior yearbook the best one yet. You work extremely hard, and as design editor, I knew my job was to make sure your dedication to and love for the book showed on every page. I know one day you'll be looking back and reading this in some lavish penthouse with an impressive job because you work diligently to get what you want. Thank you so much for being there for us and helping us all through both work-related and social problems.

I also want to thank my best friends and three of the best roommates ever, Alley, Katie and Molly, for listening to me talk about the yearbook 24/7 and for helping out with a lot of it. You guys kept me sane during our hectic senior year, and I hope we get together to watch "The Bachelor" with cookie dough and wine for years to come. Molly, you especially deserve a shout-out for keeping me sane, not only during senior year, but all four years. We've been through so much that it would take at least a 14-page affidavit to describe it all (LOL). Anyways, I love you all so much.

Finally, Mom, Dad and Jeff — Thank you for literally everything I have and everything I am. I love you.

These last few years at JMU have been insanely fun, and while there have been times where I wasn't so sure, I know that applying to JMU four years ago was the right decision, too.

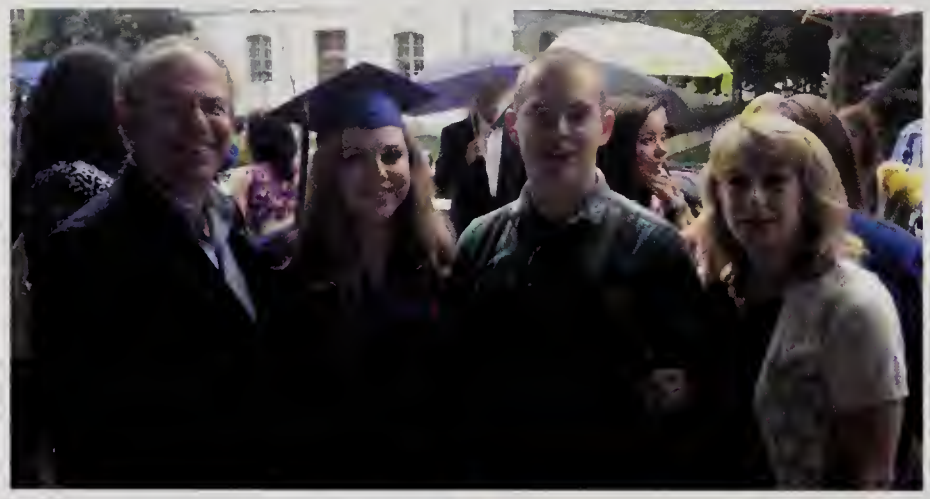










Photo Editor's Desk

JILLIAN WRIGHT

Of all the publications I have worked on during my sophomore year at JMU, becoming a member of "The Bluestone" editorial board has undoubtedly been the most influential. As photo editor, I originally anticipated growing as a photographer, but after spending countless hours in this dingy office, I leave with six meaningful friendships.

Paige — "None can hope to lead the pack forever." — "The Jungle Book." Although soon you'll be leaving our staff, which will be a game changer, you and I both know you're moving on to an even brighter future. Thank you for being our second mother, always asking how our day was and how our classes were going. Also, you introduced me to The Weeknd, something I am definitely grateful for. Please come visit us next year for even more dance sessions, Starbucks trips and unexpected deep discussions.

Leah — "Hakuna matata." — "The Lion King." You are the chillest, most down-to-earth person. My little synagogue mouse, your quiet comments heard from across the room literally made me whole. Without you, the notorious Jimmy Tomato dilemma would have been our downfall. You are indeed the Adobe master and InDesign queen. LEEDLE-LEEDLE-LEE, I have nothing but love for you and your barely audible whispers.

Hannah — "You've got a friend in me." — "Toy Story." You are my rock and partner in crime when it comes to photography and butt touching. I knew we were the same person when we simultaneously threw our pens at Giuliana when her 75th pun became the final straw. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together next year. Let's shoot sometime.

Michelle — "Remember, you're the one who can fill the world with sunshine." — "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Your unprecedented compassion and selflessness set you apart from the rest, not to mention your phenomenal writing abilities. Your words truly have the power to evoke emotion. I cannot thank you enough for convincing me to apply for editorial board as a freshman. Collaborating with you for two years has been an honor, and I look forward to our third year. Hello stranger, do you have a strange pet?

Giuliana — "Someday my [prints] will come." — "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" adaptation. Your vocabulary, puns and appreciation for pizza continue to leave me in awe. Never stop being your authentic self - keep performing parkour, making crazy Snapchats, being a Belieber and eating food that upsets your stomach.

Taylor — "'Ohana' means family. Family means nobody gets left behind." — "Lilo and Stitch." You truly complete our eclectic little sisterhood. Your calm, refreshing personality and sense of humor balanced all the craziness that occurred within these outdated walls. I know you'll continue to slay as a writer, athlete and fashionista.

Most importantly of all, I'd like to thank everyone for letting me touch your butts. And thank you to Beth for bringing us much-needed sweets during deadline weekends.

To my mother and father — I will forever be indebted to you and your efforts in working hard to ensure I have access to a college education. All of my ambitions and achievements trace back to you. I love you with all that I have.

"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." — "Winnie the Pooh."









Copy Editor's Desk

GIULIANA MACALUSO

Madipawinna. There, I said it. So help me, that dang phrase is going to make it into this yearbook if it's the last thing I do. And after Paige sees this, it just might be the last thing I do …

Now that I've gotten that out of my system, I think I have no choice but to take this opportunity to compare the members of the 2016 editorial board to pizza.

Paige — You are a pepperoni pizza, a crowd favorite. Pepperoni is the pizza I choose when I want to be certain that everyone wins, and you are the same way. When we're uncertain, we know we can depend on you. Because your undeniable intelligence and drive are balanced kindness, you motivate all of us to work harder.

Michelle — You are a pizza off the streets of Rome: authentic, the real deal. You speak softly, but your words are important and carry truth. Your strength of character and genuine concern for others set you apart from the world.

Hannah — You are a supreme pizza, a little bit of everything. Your mind is creative and relational but simultaneously logical and sound. You also happen to be my counterpart in the single most revolutionary friendship I've ever had. You've redefined sisterhood for me, and nothing makes sense without you. Also, as roommates, we've seen each other's butts (can you say that in a publication?)

Leah — You are a Hawaiian pizza. You are bold, but there is a sweetness about you that makes you a perfect balance. Thank you for being the only person who threw puns instead of pens at me this year. In fact, while we're talking about pizza and puns, I like that you're saucy and not crusty.

Jill — You are a Buffalo chicken pizza. I like that you're not run of the mill, and your spiciness keeps things interesting. You are humble, but you also are among the most talented photographers I know. Also, it's a wonder I know what you look like, given the aggressively large printer that sits between us.

Taylor — You are a "Create Your Own" pizza. You are original, so sure and confident in who you are. I also feel I ought to commend you for the fact that you performed all of your duties this year at your "desk," as it was literally a slab of wood tottering precariously atop some boxes. That speaks highly of your patience and balance.

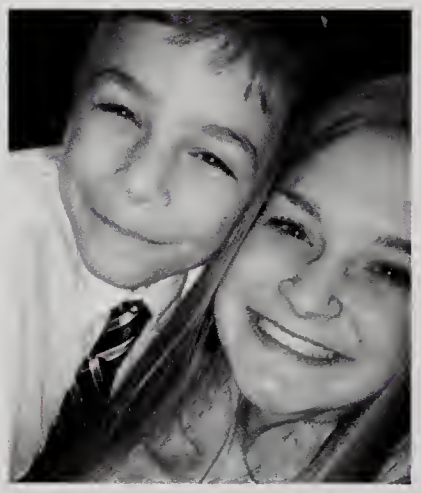
Mom and Dad — In keeping with this metaphor, you are the dough, the integral foundation of every element of my life. Thank you.

Laura, Emma and Noah — You add the freshest ingredients. You are an essential part of me.

I sort of feel like I should dedicate a paragraph to The Associated Press Stylebook, but that would probably just get weird for everyone.

And so, my unique, tightknit yearbook family, I hope this wasn't too cheesy for you. Please know that you all have made me better. I'll see you after I get back from taking a lap.











Social Media Coordinator's Desk

TAYLOR KAHNY

When I declared my major as WRTC, it was a shot in the dark. I thought, "Hey, I'm pretty good with grammar, and I beat that super smart kid on the AP Language test that one time during my senior year of high school, so, I'm ultimately a professional journalist." I had no idea that it would spark my contributions to JMU's "Gardy Loo Literary Magazine," "The Breeze" and "The Bluestone." Before I started writing for this yearbook, I took a few classes with Paige, and, honestly, her enormous amount of drive and ambition rubbed off on me.

Paige — Working as your intern/social media coordinator was not only relevant to my degree, but it also trained me to endure countless hours in an overheated, mustard-colored basement. Now I can do anything. You taught me so much about journalistic writing and editing. Also, your mini InDesign tutorials added a new skill to my LinkedIn profile that one of my family members will likely endorse within the next week. I would also like to add that our trips to Tropical Smoothie made me a devout fan of their Detox Island Green. I'm still extremely jealous of the delicious food options that surrounded you in New York City last summer, and when you become the CEO for a large company there, we will 100 percent meet up for mimosas.

Michelle — I had the pleasure of sitting right beside you throughout deadline weekends, and every time I read a story, I guessed correctly when you were the author. You have such a way with words — as poetic as that sounds — and I was wondering if you could transfer some of your knowledge to the chick on your left. I loved the fact that even when I left early, you would still send me Snapchat stories of Giuliana walking across desks in a tutu to keep me in the loop.

Giuliana — You never failed to keep the entire staff and myself completely entertained. When I sat next to you in WRTC 300 and we both laughed at that "Blurred Lines" grammar video, I knew it was meant to be. Your spot-on accents and love of pizza always kept me laughing. Let's not forget the Mary Kate and Ashley commercial when Mary Kate "hit the trail in style." Keep up the good vibes. Also, I never want to hear the John Cena prank call ever again.

Hannah — You kept G in line and we all needed that. You're so down to earth, and I commend you for juggling your scientific schoolwork along with successfully holding the position as managing editor. Also, despite your knee injury, you carried yourself with such poise and grace. I can't wait to see you pursue your lifelong dream of becoming a doctor.

Jill — Your photography is stunning. One of my life goals is to become a great photographer, and you're my inspiration. When everyone was super loud and obnoxious in the office, I always looked over at you and observed your calm composure — Great life skill. Thanks for always trekking to Dukes with me, even in 20-degree temperatures.

Leah — Your InDesign expertise never ceased to amaze me. Even during deadline weekend when everyone was stressed, you kept your cool and continued to design numerous spreads that always turned out to be phenomenal. As the intern, I enjoyed rummaging through old yearbook photos in the office so that I could morph them into cover photos that you would later Photoshop — thanks for having my back, girl.

My experience working for "The Bluestone" was one I'll never forget, and I'd like to thank my friends and family for supporting me throughout my writing career, even during the times when I wrote my own chapter books accompanied with terrible drawings. Mom and Dad, I know you appreciated those personal booklets that I made for each family member (sorry Jordan you weren't born yet). My time these past four years at JMU has exceeded my expectations, and I've made so many lasting friendships and connections. I'm now moving on to bigger things, but I couldn't have done it without a little help along the way. J-Maddy, I owe it all to you!













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LEGO Duke Dog plays his part in keeping the Quad clear in the fall. Duke Dog, always ready to give students a hug, served as a source of school pride on campus.

Located on main campus, Wilson Hall serves as the Quad's focal point.
The Quad was a student hot spot where the JMU community gathered on warm days.

COLOPHON

Photography

A student staff created "The Bluestone 2016, Volume 107" with aid from our publisher, Balfour Publishing Company, located in Dallas. The editors used Macintosh versions of Adobe Creative Suite 6 and Microsoft Word 2011 to create all 336 pages, covering events from March 2015 to March 2016. Tami and Scott Stalcup served as the publishing representatives and Angela Holt served as the account executive for this volume.

Cover & Endsheets

Design editor Leah Jacobs created the cover design for "The Bluestone 2016." The colors on the cover were also expressed throughout the book.

Fonts & Typography

"The Bluestone 2016" used the Olympia and Valencia font families for body and subheader content. "The Bluestone" also used the decorative font Market Deco for headers. Copy was 10-point with 12-point leading and captions are 8-point with 9.6-point leading.

Colors

Five colors were used throughout "The Bluestone 2016":
Green: C=20 M=0 Y=20 K=0
Lavender: C=40 M=40 Y=0 K=0
Peach: C=0 M=40 Y=40 K=0
Gray: C=10 M=0 Y=0 K=40
Yellow: C=0 M=10 Y=40 K=0

Editorial

Editorial content did not necessarily reflect the views of the university. The editor-in-chief accepted responsibility for all content in the yearbook.

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"The Bluestone" office was located in Roop Hall, room G-6. The staff's primary address was MSC 3522, 800 S. Main St., Harrisonburg, Va. 22807. The email address was jmu.bluestone@gmail.com and the website was www.jmubluestone.com.

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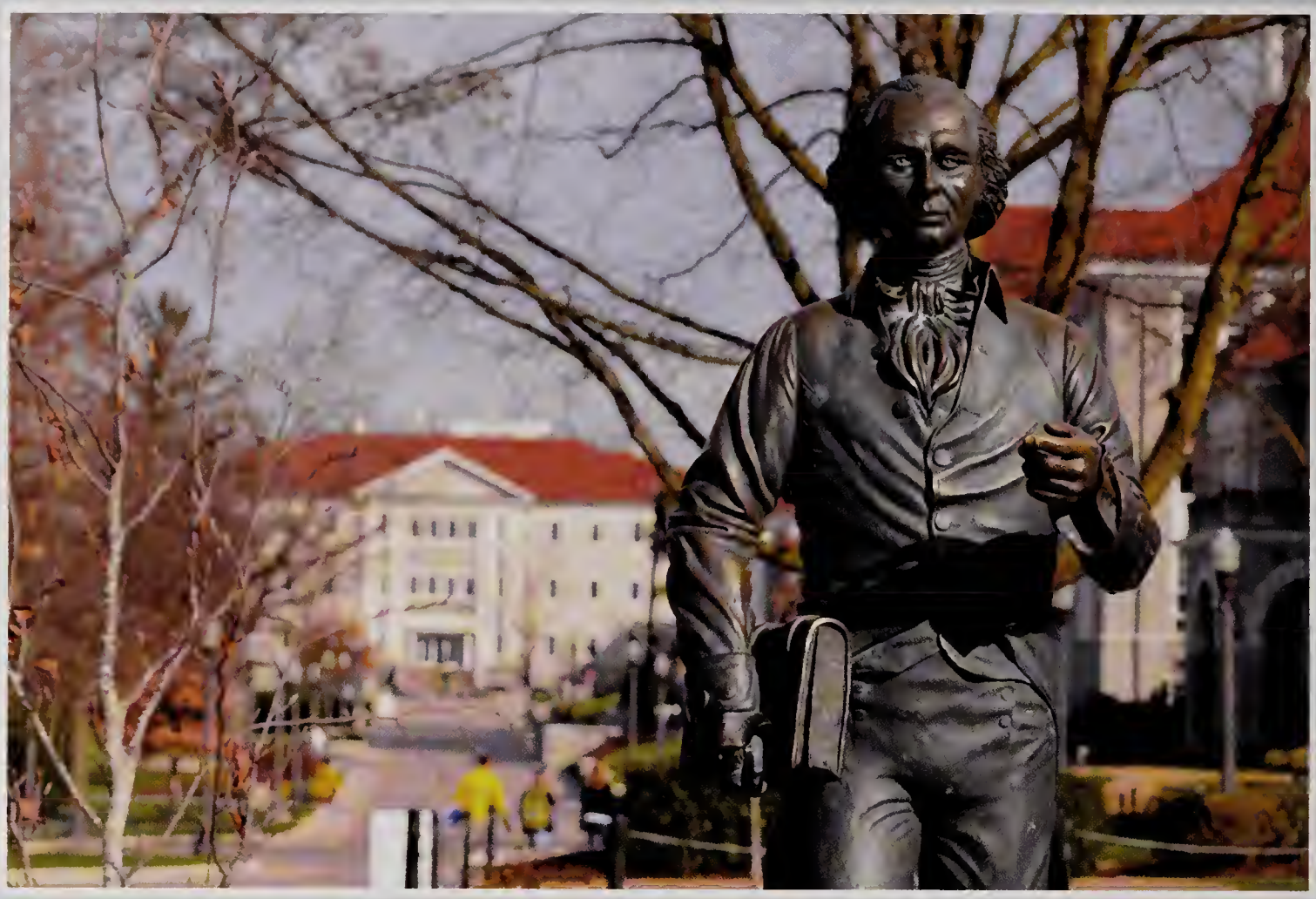
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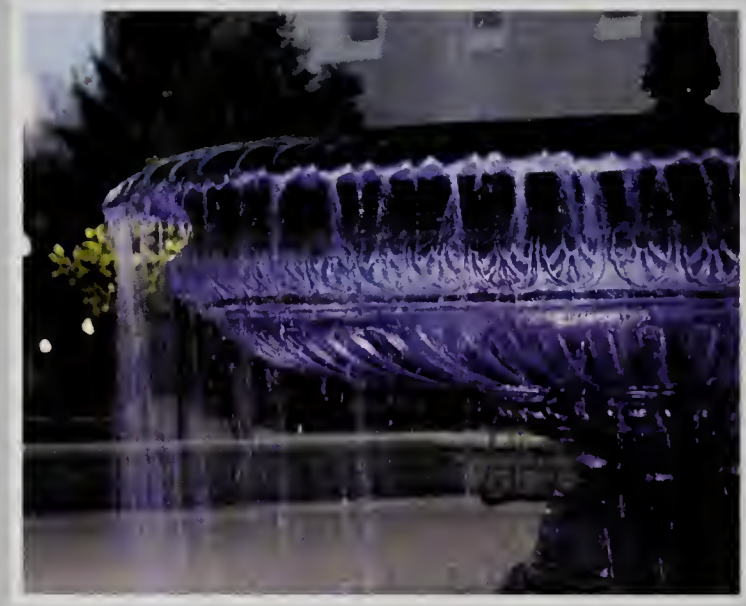
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